

Rhetoric Two  
Two-Semester Course  
(Course of Study Scope and Sequence by Shaunna Howat)

**SCOPE OF CONTENT**

Mrs. Howat has developed a high school course based on Aristotle's study of Rhetoric, the science and art of persuasive communication. This is a two-year college-prep course that follows Aristotle's Five Canons of Rhetoric: Invention, Arrangement, Style, Memory and Delivery. This is the second year of a two-year course of study. **Prerequisite to this course is Rhetoric One.** The first year (Rhetoric One) studies the first three elements of Aristotle's Canon, and the second year incorporates the last two Canons.

The second year of Rhetoric focuses on the last three **Canons of Rhetoric**: Style, Memory and Delivery. We start out right away reminding students that this is the year to write their Second-year Thesis, which will be longer than the first year's paper. We will continue to analyze discourses nearly every week. During the Memory and Delivery portion of this class, we will be studying the basic components of **public speaking**. Thus second year students of Rhetoric need a **Web Cam**, as we will be presenting our speeches for one another.

**SCOPE OF PRESENTATION**

This course is taught as a live videoconference class, meeting once per week online for 1.5 hours. To excel in this class a student must be prepared to thoroughly read and comprehend the discourses we analyze each week based on the lesson being taught. Essays and short answer assignments are expected to adhere to grammar, style and content rules. The student who expects to provide short answers that do not go beyond the surface of the written work, will not excel in this class. A student's work is expected to be thoughtful, thorough and complete. Students will be required to use a Web Cam for public speaking assignments toward the middle part of the year (through the end), so parents must plan accordingly.

**SCOPE OF ASSIGNMENTS**

There will be two to four assignments per week, each taking two or more hours of study and writing. Some are **short answer**, and some are longer **essays** and **analyses**. Some will be imitative writing. Occasionally we will conduct a graded **Round Table** discussion which will focus on issues that require thoughtful discourse and may require prepared research. Students will be expected to write a Thesis Paper. During the speech component, students will be **memorizing some famous speeches and presenting them**, then writing and presenting their own speeches. They will plan and present a debate or two. There will be **one exam at each quarter's end (consisting of a timed analysis) and two final exams at year's end**: One will be a timed essay analyzing a discourse they have not read before, answering all the points of analysis we have studied this year. The second will be the oral presentation of their thesis papers.

## **SCOPE OF RHETORIC COURSE**

### **Goals:**

Students will:

1. Continue analyzing discourses in more depth.
2. Analyze some creative/persuasive essays for tone and style.
3. Learn to identify various Figures of Speech and incorporate them into the analysis of discourses.
4. Learn to incorporate a variety of Progymnasmata exercises (formulaic writing).
5. Learn and practice a variety of public speaking exercises.
6. Research, write and orally defend a Thesis Paper.

### **Objectives:**

By the end of this course, students should:

1. Study the Style of Rhetoric: literary elements of writing.
2. Regularly analyze discourses using techniques learned in Rhetoric I.
3. Learn the discipline of writing by imitating the styles of various literary masters.
4. Learn how to write different styles by re-writing passages in their own words.
5. Learn formulaic writing with progymnasmata.
6. Learn the techniques of speaking in public.
7. Memorize and deliver prepared speeches or discourses.
8. Present discourses in a public forum.
9. Research, write and present a final project

## **RHETORIC TWO COURSE SEQUENCE**

First Quarter:

- Week 1: Review of Rhetoric One (test at end of review), remember analysis skills. Discuss Thesis, deadlines for thesis through the year.
- Week 2: Style discussion with analysis and readings. Adding imitation.
- Week 3: Style discussions to improve vocabulary, with analysis and readings.
- Weeks 4-8: Style discussion: diction. Adding essay analysis. Round Table discussion.
- Week 9: Quarter Exam: analysis of a discourse.

Second Quarter:

- Weeks 10-13: Wrap up Style, begin Figures of Speech, with analysis and readings.
- Weeks 14-16: Progymnasmata: The Chreia, Commonplace, Invective.
- Week 17: Semester exam.

Third Quarter:

- Weeks 18-24: Memory and Delivery. Elements of public speaking. Round Tables.
- Week 25: Quarter exam.

Fourth Quarter:

Weeks 26-29: Speech continued: The debate, the prepared speech, looking forward to the rest of this year.

Weeks 30-31: Debates.

Week 32: Final exam.

Week 33: Oral defense of Thesis Papers.

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

Mrs. Howat has written the course materials herself. The text plus accompanying discourses are available by purchase directly from her.

Also required for this course is *The Penguin Book of Historic Speeches*, edited by Brian MacArthur. This book is available through [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). The student must also have a dictionary available. Some students choose to use [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) or other online resources, but Mrs. Howat appreciates the old-fashioned, printed dictionary!