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PR 501 Communication As Christian Rhetoric

Michael C. Voigts

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Syllabus

Course: SP501 W2 (SP 2009)

Title: Communication As Christian Rhetoric

Hours: 2.00

Published: Yes, on 11/17/2008

Prerequisites:

None

Department: Speech

Faculty: Rev. Dr. Mike Voigts



Email: mike.voigts@asburyseminary.edu

Office: SH

SPO: 1235

Meetings:

During 02/09/2009 to 05/22/2009 on Monday from 5:30p to 8:15p in AD302.

- Breakout Room or Additional Reserved Room in BC235.

Maximum Registration: 25

Catalog Description: This course provides a context for instruction and practice that introduces the art of written and spoken communication within a clearly articulated Wesleyan theological framework for the purpose of Christian ministry. As a core course within the theological curriculum, its purpose does not simply replicate undergraduate speech and communication studies. Students will be provided with appropriate means for cultivating necessary habits of Christian life and speech in light of the Christian rhetorical tradition, classical rhetoric, and contemporary communication studies in preparation for Christian ministry in a multicultural society. This course is designed to integrate theological and scriptural knowledge, rhetorical and cultural understanding, for clear, coherent, and persuasive written and oral expressions of Christian speech in the practice of Christian leadership.

Objectives:

SP501 "Communication as Christian Rhetoric"

Fall 2008

2 Credit Hours

Mondays, 5:30 - 8:15pm

Michael C. Voigts, Ph.D.

*Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.
(Colossians 4:6)*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class provides a context for instruction and practice that introduces the craft of written and spoken communication within a clearly articulated Wesleyan theological framework for the purpose of Christian ministry. Its purpose does not simply replicate undergraduate speech and communication studies. Students will acquire appropriate means for cultivating necessary habits of Christian life and speech in light of the Christian rhetorical tradition, classical rhetoric, and contemporary communication studies in preparation for Christian ministry

in a multi-cultural society.

GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES

Having completed the course, students will demonstrate ability to:

- Express a basic understanding of how practical wisdom derived from biblical and classical rhetoric, communication and cultural studies inform the practice of Christian speech;
- Demonstrate sufficient theological and practical understanding for faithful use of Christian language, for selecting and arranging material in a manner fitting for particular situations and audiences, and for clear, coherent presentations and persuasive delivery;
- Articulate persuasive arguments in written and oral form that demonstrate a capacity for faithful Christian discourse supported by appropriate research and reflection;
- Within a Wesleyan framework, communicate a vision of Christian rhetoric that demonstrates an understanding of how theory is embedded in and informs practice;
- Demonstrate presentational skill with regard to vocal control, paralanguage and body language appropriate to the audience for message presentation and reception.

PERSONAL NOTE

It's great to have you in class this semester. I believe our time together will be cognitively informative and spiritually nourishing. While some of you may have hesitations about taking this course, I want to encourage you that unlike other speech classes, this course is foundational for any type of Christian communication, including preaching. If you allow God to use this materials in this course in your vocational and personal formation, this semester can be formative for you.

I understand that for some, the fear of public speaking can be crippling. Please don't let this anxiety overwhelm you. I'm here to support and encourage you. Reading speech or paper evaluations can be difficult, but always remember they are meant to make you a better communicator, and aren't meant to be personal critiques.

Of course, if you ever have a question about an upcoming speech or assignment, please let me know! I don't want anyone to be unsure of what is expected.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Holy Bible. (NRSV Preferred)

Berger, Daniel R. *Speaking the Truth in Love: Christian Public Rhetoric*. (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2007). ISBN: 15-563-51-186

Luntz, Frank. *Words that Work: It's Not What You Say, It's What People Hear*. (New York: Hyperion, 2007). ISBN: 978-1-4013-0929-9

Pieper, Josef. *Abuse of Language – Abuse of Power*. (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1992). ISBN: 08-987-03-62X

1 VHS Tape or a DVD-R for recording your speeches. If you record to a DVD you will need to stay after class to finalize it. Finalizing the DVD allows you to view it on other DVD players. This process takes 5 – 10 minutes per speech.

Throughout the semester, articles available online will be assigned.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

Pasquarello, Michael. *Sacred Rhetoric: Preaching as a Theological and Pastoral Practice of the Church*, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005).

Slade, Carole. *Form & Style: Research Papers, Reports, Theses*. 13 ed. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005).

Strunk, William, Jr. and E B White. *Elements of Style*. <http://www.bartleby.com/141/index.html>

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

Class sessions will center on one or more specific themes relating to Christian rhetoric. Although lectures will be used, the use of small groups and corporate interaction are also important means of communicating the course material, and will be part of most class sessions. My desire is to provide a variety of instructional styles to accommodate various ways of learning.

Any PowerPoint presentations I use in class will be available to you in the course Moodle page on following our Friday class session.

Please note: As mentioned above, personal computers may be used for note taking purposes during class lectures. However, during small

groups or speeches, personal computers are not to be used.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Speeches

- Two Speeches will be delivered extemporaneously. In other words, you will prepare thoroughly but you should not memorize the speech nor read it word-for-word from a manuscript. Speech outlines support extemporaneous delivery.
 - Time limits for speeches are 8-10 minutes
- Both speech assignments must be completed in order to receive a grade for this course.
- Specific instructions and topics for the speeches will be discussed in class and posted on the course Moodle page.
- An MLA formatted bibliography/reading report of 200 pages will be submitted for the reading done in relation to each speech on the day each speech is given. In general, students will be expected to read high quality sources, which include both contemporary and classical Christian sources as accessed via the library, electronic databases, and the internet.

Speech Self-Evaluations

After each speech presentation, you will view the videotape of your speech and complete the appropriate speech evaluation form posted on the course Moodle page. Your comments should reflect thoughtful engagement with the course readings, lectures, and class discussion. A sample evaluation exhibiting the type of response sought for this assignment will also be posted in the course folder for your reference.

The evaluation should be completed and emailed to me **before 12 Midnight on the Monday following your speech**. Upon receiving your self-evaluation, I will provide you with my completed evaluation via the SPO.

Integrative Paper

This 7 - 8 page assignment is not a research paper. This assignment provides you the opportunity for reflection on the class experience by integrating the course lectures, the required readings, the class discussions, and your speeches. The paper should address the components of communication that you have come to embrace as essential to Christian leadership. Specific guidance for completing this assignment will be provided in the course Moodle page one month before prior to the due date.

COURSE EVALUATION

Points for the course are according to the following schedule:

Speech #1		
Speech	25 points	
Speech bibliography	5 points	
Self-Critique	5 points	
Speech #2		
Speech	25 points	
Speech bibliography	5 points	
Self-Critique	5 points	
Required Reading	10 points	
Final Essay	<u>20 points</u>	
Total Points		100 points

Your final grade for the course will be determined by the total points earned:

Grade	Points Needed	Letter Grades as described in the ATS Academic Catalog
A	93 – 100	Exceptional work: surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives.
A-	90 – 92	
B+	87 – 89	
B	83 – 86	Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives
B-	80 – 82	
C+	77 – 79	
C	73 – 76	Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives
C-	70 – 72	
D+	67 – 69	
D	63 – 66	Marginal work: inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives
D-	60 – 62	
F	0 – 59	Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives

COURSE ASSUMPTIONS

Classroom Community

In a course such as this one, it is imperative that we maintain a positive, encouraging classroom environment. Students in this course have a wide range of experience in Christian

rhetoric. Out of respect for others in the course, please refrain from nonverbal behavior that detracts from community building. Everyone in the class is expected to engage in class discussions, to exhibit active listening, and to demonstrate respect toward all members of the class.

I encourage you to use computers in class, but only for instructional purposes. Checking email, and surfing the internet for non-course purposes are not appropriate and distract from Christian community in the classroom.

Attendance

Since this class meets just once a week, students are expected to attend each class and be on time for each session. If you are ill or experiencing a family crisis, you should contact me before class begins to make arrangements for such an absence. For each unexcused absence, your final grade will be reduced by 10%. NOTE: You are only required to be in attendance on the speech days that you (and your group) are scheduled to give a presentation. You are welcome to attend any or all of the presentation days and fully participate in class critique and interaction; however, an absence on these days will not impact your grade.

Writing Skills

Written assignments for this course should reflect aptitude appropriate for a Master's level degree program. You should be able to compose grammatically correct sentences, write well-developed paragraphs, and express your ideas in a well-organized coherent manner. In addition, you should be able to follow the MLA writing style guidelines, using correct citation and notation. Evaluation of written work submitted without attention to grammar, form, and style guidelines as well as the use of inclusive language will impact the student's grade. A grading rubric as well as specific form and style instructions for all written work can be found at the end of this syllabus.

Information Commons

If you are unfamiliar with the skill to access the library catalog and electronic databases in order to research topics of interest for your oral presentations, you will want to consult with the attendants at the Information Commons Desk.

Completion of Assignments

All assignments should be submitted on time. Written assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. They should be proofread carefully before they are turned in. Late work will result in a 5% grade reduction for each day that passes beyond the due date.

Academic Integrity

All written work and oral presentations for this course must be the original work of the student. You're encouraged to use of sources to support and develop your written and oral presentations with the appropriate documentation (please refer to Asbury Seminary's policy regarding plagiarism in the Student Handbook).

Inclusive Language

Consistent with the values of Asbury Seminary, members of this class will embrace the use of inclusive language in reference to human beings in all course communication. The following is Asbury Seminary's regarding the use of inclusive language:

Differentiation between the sexes is rooted in God's creative act. The use of inclusive language is not intended to undermine this view of God-ordained gender differences. However, males and females, while different in being, are both created in the image of God and share the same worth. Employing inclusive language reflects a commitment to affirming women's presence and worth in our community.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Class Focus	Reading	Assignments Due
2/9	Introduction / Theology of Communication	Syllabus, Berger (65-96)	
2/16	The Danger of Language	Pieper book, Berger (40-64)	
2/23	<i>Pathos, Ethos, Logos</i>	Aristotle Article, Berger (97-163)	
3/2	Crafting the Speech	Berger (299-352)	
3/9	Speech #1 – Group 1		Group 1*: Speech Bibliography and Self-Evaluation
3/16	Speech #1 – Group 2		Group 2*: Speech Bibliography and Self-Evaluation
3/23	Speech #1 – Group 3		Group 3*: Speech Bibliography and Self-Evaluation
3/30	SPRING	READING	WEEK
4/6	Knowing your Audience	Berger (165-192)	
4/13	Words as Communication	Luntz Book, Berger (193-295)	
4/20	Speech #2 – Group 1		Group 1*: Speech Bibliography and Self-Evaluation
4/27	Speech #2 – Group 2		Group 2*: Speech Bibliography and Self-Evaluation

5/4	Speech #2 – Group 3		Group 3*: Speech Bibliography and Self-Evaluation
5/11	From Rhetoric to Proclamation		
5/18			FINAL ESSAY in Hard Copy to SPO by 4pm.

*Speech Bibliography is due at time of the speech. The Self-Evaluations should be completed and emailed to my office in the SP 501 course folder before Midnight on the Monday following your speech.

FORM & STYLE GUIDELINES FOR WRITTEN WORK

Written assignments should be prepared according to the following guidelines:

1.
 - Standard 8 ½ x 11 inch paper
 - Stapled, please no binders or paper clips
 - Times New Roman, 12 point font
 - 1" margins all around
 - Double space entire paper
 - Do not justify the right hand margin
 - Page numbers in the upper right hand corner
 - Provide a separate Reference Page at the end of the document
 - Use MLA style citation guidelines (cite in the body of the text, no footnotes or endnotes). See the follow web sites for assistance in using MLA <http://webpages.pvbears.org/hslibrary/mla.htm> and <http://www.mla.org/>