



FREEDOM PROJECT
ACADEMY

Course Syllabus

Rhetoric, Persuasion, and Oration

Course Description:

All speaking is public speaking. The voice is the most powerful communication tool we possess and it should be used in the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty to help others toward the truth. This course explores the the art of effective, persuasive, and winsome communication. It stands upon the classical (Greek and Roman) tradition of Aristotle, Plato, and Cicero but also explores beyond into the Scriptural patterns of the prophets and apostles. Properly considered, it instructs how to love an opponent not dominate him.

Ideas, beliefs, and feelings matter and, therefore, how one expresses them matters greatly. This course seeks to encourage students to be better communicators through empathy with and love towards their listeners.

Attendance/Participation:

Classroom instruction and discussion is invaluable to your success in the subject. Feedback and response are crucial to achieving the goals of the course. Therefore, points will be allotted for daily participation. Everyone must be respectful of others' comments and input. An attitude of mockery and dismissive negativity will not be tolerated. Polite constructive criticism and debate are appropriate, however.

Due to the nature of the course, each student will be expected to present four oral presentations per year on camera. Suggestions/exercises as to how to improve pitch, timbre, volume, and melody of voice are to be expected as learning experiences. Written reviews/scoring of others' presentations are required and facilitated through Canvas.

Preparation:

All chapters should be read before class and all assignments completed in a timely manner as assigned in order to better learn, follow, and participate in discussions during class times.

Grades:

Homework and class participation: 35%

Oral presentations: 35%

Quizzes and Tests: 30%

Please understand that participation is a huge part of this class (35% of your grade). Each day I keep track of who is ready for class. Questions and comments are welcomed at all times. Please make sure you have a working mic.

Prepare so that you can participate effectively in and add insightfully to class discussions.

Note taking is imperative so be sure to have a designated Rhetoric, Persuasion, and Oration notebook at hand in all classes.

Assignments are listed well in advance and they are not limited to quizzes and tests.

Make sure that every week:

- your vocabulary lists are finished.
- your bullet points for text boxes are done (as assigned).
- your class notes are complete and annotated as necessary. Review them 10-15 minutes at least twice a week after class so they are fresh in your memory.
- that you prepare some everyday for long-range assignments such as oral presentations.
- do not wait until the last minute to complete assignments, A little bit done at a time is better than a huge cram session.
- that your assigned chapter is read in advance of Monday's class. (this can be done in sections as your schedule permits)
- that you are spending at least the prescribed 5 hours a week on this class.