

**Course:** EN411-DND Rhetoric (Blended)  
**Credit:** 3 Semester Hours  
**Semester:** Fall 2026  
**Location:** East Ed 105, TR 9:30-10:50am  
**Instructor:** Becca Howell (becca.howell@calvary.edu)

*\*About This Class: This is an online-only class. Students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments are done in the online classroom.*

*\*About Changes to this Syllabus: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time during the course, but any changes made will only be done after clearly communicating the need for the change and the specific change to be made via in-class announcement and Canvas announcement.*

## I. DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the history, theory, practice, and implications of rhetoric, the art and craft of persuasion. Through a combination of reading, speaking, and writing, the student will learn to read and think critically, to practice skills of rhetorical analysis and argument, and practice basics of oral persuasive presentation.

**Prerequisites:** EN113 College Composition II **and** one 200-level Literature course.

## II. OBJECTIVES

### A. General competencies to be achieved. You will:

1. Develop an advanced understanding of the history, theory, practice and implications of rhetoric (PLO 1; Assignments A-D).
2. Apply rhetorical principles to speaking and writing assignments (PLO 1, 2, 4; Assignment C-D).
3. Evaluate readings from a Biblical worldview (PLO 1, 3; Assignments A-D).

### B. Specific competencies to be achieved. You will be able to:

1. Carefully read and analyze rhetorical works through history (PLO 1-4; Assignments A-D).
2. Compare and contrast the Biblical worldview with that of the authors studied (PLO 1, 3; Assignments A-D).
3. Use research tools to write two research essays (PLO 1-4; Assignments C).
4. Apply rhetorical principles to an oral presentation (PLO 1-4; D).

### III. REQUIRED MATERIALS

#### A. Required Textbooks

1. **The Bible** is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.
2. *The History and Theory of Rhetoric: An Introduction*. Herrick, James A. 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. ISBN: 978-1138223677. Cost: between \$42 (used) and \$93. [Amazon Link](#)

#### B. Suggested Resources

- MLA Handbook, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition

### IV. REQUIREMENTS

- A. Attendance:** Students are required to attend the class section for which they enroll: online students may attend via livestream or by watching the recorded lecture; in-class students must attend in class. In-class students may not choose to attend online without approval of the instructor.

Attendance is taken for all in-class and livestream students.

Online students who attend asynchronously are required to submit all in-class activities on Canvas in the "Participation Activities Week X" assignment prior to the next class period. Late Participation Activities are counted as absences.

Students with more than two absences will be dropped from the course.

- B. Discussion Board:** The professor will assign one discussion question in Canvas each week. Responses must be a minimum of 500 words, be clearly organized, and be well-supported by notes, quotes from the text, or outside research. Students must also engage with their peers in meaningful discussion after posting their initial response.
- C. Reading Assignments and Journals:** Reading assignments are assigned from the required textbooks (see below). A journal prompt is assigned for each reading (see Canvas for details). Students must complete assigned reading prior to the class period on which it is due. *Students may not substitute any kind of Cliff Notes, E-Notes, or online summaries of any kind.* Students will certify that they have completed reading in Canvas.
- D. Essays:** Two essays are required: a persuasive essay and a rhetorical analysis essay. The persuasive essay is an advanced persuasive essay on a contemporary topic that both applies theories of rhetoric and practices advanced composition skills. Five outside resources must be included in this

essay. In the rhetorical analysis essay, students choose a speech and evaluate its success or failure from a rhetorical standpoint. See Canvas for additional details.

- E. Oral Presentation:** Students will build and deliver a persuasive oral presentation on a contemporary issue. The presentation will apply rhetorical theory and demonstrate advanced presentation skills. See Canvas for additional details.

**F. Other Assignment Policies**

1. *Style Guide:* All class papers must follow the MLA style according to the *MLA Handbook*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition.
2. *Plagiarism* is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without identifying the author. This also includes taking another person's ideas and presenting them as your own.
3. *Other forms of cheating* include copying another student's work, allowing a student to do your work, using notes instead of reading the literary works, basing your research essay on another essay, bringing cheat sheets or written information to a quiz or an exam, and working collaboratively with another student on individual assignments. This also includes handing in one essay for assignments given in two different courses to reduce the amount of student work. Please check with the professor if you have concerns or doubts about the academic approach you plan to take for an assignment.
4. *Late work:* -10% from the final grade per day late.
5. *Originality:* Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification.
6. Students may not hand in one paper for two different courses—even if the paper has been altered in some way. Students may not hand in a paper that was written for another class in previous courses. All work must be completely new and written solely by the student.
7. *Absences:* Students are responsible for making up missed coursework. Watch the recorded class video to find out what was covered.

**V. METHODS**

- A. Lectures, Discussions:** This course is balanced between lecture and discussion. Students are expected to participate in discussions. Online students will be given special instructions about how to participate in these discussions.
- B. Reading and Writing:** All reading must be completed as assigned. *All essay assignments must be completed to pass this course.* Grading rubrics are used on all essays.
- C. Grading**

*Possible Points for All Assignments:*

Participation Activities (16 x 10)	160 points
Discussion Boards (16 x 20)	320 points
Reading Assignments (16 x 20)	320 points
Reading Journals (16 x 15)	240 points
Essays (2 x 100)	200 points
Oral Presentation	100 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>1340 points</b>

The Grading Scale can be found in the University Catalog.

**VI. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (The professor may modify the schedule as necessary.)**

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Due Dates</b> <i>All assignments are due on Fridays at 11:59pm</i>
<b>Week 1</b>	Introduction to Rhetoric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 1</li> <li>• Reading Journal (RJ) 1</li> </ul>
<b>Week 2-3</b>	Early Rhetoric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 2</li> <li>• Discussion Board (DB) 1-2</li> <li>• RJ 2</li> </ul>
<b>Week 4-5</b>	Greek Rhetoric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 3-4</li> <li>• DB 3</li> <li>• RJ 3</li> </ul>
<b>Week 6-7</b>	Roman Rhetoric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 5</li> <li>• DB 4</li> <li>• RJ 4</li> <li>• Rhetorical Period Essay</li> </ul>
<b>Week 8-9</b>	Christian Rhetoric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 6</li> <li>• DB 5</li> <li>• RJ 5</li> </ul>
<b>Week 10-11</b>	Renaissance Rhetoric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 7</li> <li>• DB 6</li> <li>• RJ 6</li> </ul>
<b>Week 12-13</b>	Enlightenment Rhetoric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 8</li> <li>• DB 7</li> <li>• RJ 7</li> </ul>
<b>Week 14-16</b>	Contemporary Rhetoric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selected readings from Chapters 9-11</li> <li>• Persuasive Essay</li> <li>• Oral Presentation</li> <li>• DB 8</li> <li>• RJ 8</li> </ul>

**VII. Resources:**

- A. Accommodations Support:** Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.
- B. The Clark Academic Center** (email: learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students

for exams, and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this free service.