In this cross-listed seminar we are going to trace the developments of rhetoric and the teaching and practice of writing and speaking from the Renaissance to the beginning of the 20th century. The course is equally divided into three units: The Renaissance, British-Scottish, and early American.

For the first unit, we will read Peter Mack’s *Renaissance Rhetoric: 1380-1620* as our guide while also reading excerpts from Desiderius Erasmus (*De Copia* and *Ciceronianus*) and Peter Ramus (*Arguments Against Quintilian*), and conclude the unit with Don Paul Abbot’s “Reading, Writing, and Rhetoric in the Renaissance”. We will then move on to the Scots and Brits beginning with John Ward’s *System of Oratory* (1759) and Thomas Sheridan’s *A Course of Lectures on Elocution* (1762), followed by George Campbell’s *Elements of Rhetoric* (1776), Hugh Blair’s *Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres* (1783), Richard Whately’s *Elements of Rhetoric* (1826), and we will conclude this unit with Linda Ferreira-Buckley’s “Writing Instruction in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Great Britain: Continuity and Change, Transitions and Shifts”. We will begin the third unit with a rhetorical analysis of the Declaration of Independence, informed by excerpts from, among others, Wilbur S. Howell’s *Eighteenth Century British Logic and Rhetoric*. Next is John Q. Adams’s *Lectures on Rhetoric and Oratory* (1810), which we will read along with Ronald Reid’s “The Boylston Professorship of Rhetoric and Oratory, 1806-1904.” We will also read and analyze excerpts from Adams’s *Amistad* defense before the Supreme Court. After Sarah Grimke’s *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes and the Condition of Woman* (1837), we will engage rhetorics that more specifically concern themselves with the teaching of composition, including selected readings from Alexander Bain’s *English Composition and Rhetoric* (1866), Henry Day’s *Art of Discourse* (1867), David J. Hill’s *The Science of Rhetoric* (1877), and Adams Sherman Hill’s *The Principles of Rhetoric* (1895). We will conclude the semester with Herbert Wicheln’s “The Literary Criticism of Oratory” and Thomas P. Miller’s *The Evolution of College English: Literacy Studies from the Puritans to the Postmoderns*.

As for assignments, students will write a 4-5 page summary / response for each unit, offer a class presentation on one of the texts / authors (or on a topic relevant to one of the units), and write a substantial semester research paper (that includes an annotated bibliography) on a topic that is relevant to one of the units.

Texts to be purchased:
- Peter Ramus, *Arguments in Rhetoric Against Quintilian*, James Muprhy, ed., SIUP, 2010 (978-0809330140)