Course description
Adopting James Murphy’s (ed.) *A Short History of Writing Instruction: From Ancient Greece to Contemporary America* and Lynee Lewis Gaillet’s *Scottish Rhetoric and Its Influences* as our guides, we will trace some highlights of the history of composition in the Western tradition from the ancient Greeks through the nineteenth century. Along the way, we will read some of the texts that have been extremely influential to the teaching of composition in their entirety so that we can understand these primary texts within their historical and educational contexts first and foremost rather than relying upon secondary and later commentators’ understandings of / views about these texts to form our understanding of them.

Assignments include:

- Four two-page summary / response papers (20%)
- One class presentation on one of the assigned texts or a text relevant to the assigned text (20%)
- A substantial annotated bibliography and research paper on a topic relevant to the course (60%)

Texts to be purchased: