

ENGL 7/8801
History of Composition
Dr. Brad McAdon
Thurs 5:30-8:30
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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:

Bain, Alexander. *English Composition and Rhetoric: A Manual*. HardPress Publishing, ISBN 9781407723143.

Cribiore, Raffaella. *Gymnastics of the Mind: Greek Education in Hellenistic and Roman Egypt*. Princeton University Press, 2001, ISBN 0-691-12252-0.

Erasmus, Desiderius. *On Copia of Words and Ideas*, Marquette University Press, 2012, ISBN 978-087462-212-6

———. *Ciceronianus*, Aeterna Press, 2015, ISBN 978-1785161483.

Gaillet, Lynee Lewis. *Scottish Rhetoric and Its Influences*. Hermagoras Press, 1998, ISBN 1-880393-27-1

Golden, James and Edward P.J. Corbett. Eds. *The Rhetoric of Blair, Campbell, and Whately*. Southern Illinois University Press, 1990, ISBN 0-8093-1602-1.

Jardine, George. *Outlines of Philosophical Education*, Forgotten Books, 2017, ISBN 978-0282611996

Murphy, James, ed. *A Short History of Writing Instruction: From Ancient Greece to Contemporary America*. 3 ed. 2012, ISBN 978-0415897457.

Newman, Samuel P. *A Practical System of Rhetoric*. Reprints from the collection of the University of Toronto Libraries.

Quintilian. *On the Teaching of Speaking and Writing*. James Murphy, ed. Southern Illinois University Press, 1987, ISBN 0-8093-1378-2.