

## FND 150 Writing and the Art of Rhetoric

Winter Semester 2021

### Course Outline

#### Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

11 Jan., 2021- 16 Apr., 2021, M/W 1000am-1120am  
"Oration Night" 15 Apr., 2021 730pm-930pm

**Professor's Name:** Dr. Ryan N.S. Topping  
**Office:** Administration offices, NTC  
**Office Hours:** By appointment through [Michelle.Maxwell@Newman.edu](mailto:Michelle.Maxwell@Newman.edu)  
**Email:** [Ryan.Topping@Newman.edu](mailto:Ryan.Topping@Newman.edu)

#### Course Description

An historical introduction to Catholicism from its roots in Jewish and Greco-Roman antiquity to modern times. Catholicism's key literary, religious, and institutional contributions to Western culture will be studied through the close reading and discussion of representative Great Books of the Catholic Tradition.

#### Course Objectives

- a) **Broad familiarity with the contributions of Catholicism to Western Culture** – Students will be introduced to Catholicism's key literary, religious, and institutional contributions to Western culture chiefly as manifest in representative Great Books;
- b) **Skills in reading, writing and oral communication** – Students will develop skills in the close reading of, articulate speaking about, and persuasive writing upon literary, philosophical, and theological texts;
- c) **Opportunity for Growth in Christian discipleship** – By witnessing the influence of Catholicism upon the thought and culture of the West, students will be invited to consider the way that the Church's faith has unified and ennobled human communities.

#### Course Assignments and Evaluation

**Short weekly assignments – 30%:**

1. Each class a different student will present on the point of *Grammar in English Grammar for Students of Grammar*. Normally this "slot" of the class will take 10 minutes. During this time the presenting student must (a) explain the principle b) give both positive and negative examples to illustrate and c) take any questions offered by the class. **(1 graded presentation = 3%)**

2. Each Tuesday there will be a short Quiz on Grammar or Rhetoric normally drawn from the exercises based upon the previous week's lessons in *English Grammar for Students of Grammar* or Strunk or Topping. **(9 quizzes/short assigns = 27%)**

**Memorization and recitation – 10%:** Students will offer 5 recitations in class on set passages drawn from the texts; opportunities for recitation will be offered at the beginning of the last class of each week: Cicero's division of the parts of rhetoric at *Ad Her* 1.3 "The speaker and gesture"; a Sonnet by Shakespeare (3, 116, or 146); an example of a literary figure listed in *Elements of Rhetoric*; a pithy saying, proverb, or quotation drawn from readings in this class or another passage drawn from one of the readings in this class; a literary figure composed by the student.

**Florilegium – 10%:** This is a record of key quotations and brief reflections that students will keep based upon their reading, due at the last class of the term; you must write out by hand at least 12 passages with a brief 1-5 sentence comment on why you choose it as a memorable text.

**Model Essay – 10%:** Students will take a previously written college-level essay and improve it based upon the principles and techniques discussed in class. Rubric to be given in class.

**Two orations – 20%:** Oration #1 will be written only. Oration #2 will be delivered orally during "Oration Night". Rubrics and guidance in topics will be given in class.

**Final Exam – 20%:** The final exam will measure your ability to identify key rhetorical concepts, literary terms, and structures of various types of writing and speech. A study guide will be offered at least one week prior to the exam.

### Textbooks

Norma Goldman and Ladislas Szymanski, *English Grammar for Students of Latin* (Olivia and Hill Press)

John Seely, *Oxford A-Z of Grammar and Punctuation* (Oxford)

Strunk and White, *The Elements of Style* (multiple publishers)

Topping, *The Elements of Rhetoric* (Angelico Press)

Thomas G. West and Grace Starry West eds, *Four Texts on Socrates: Plato's 'Euthyphro,' 'Apology of Socrates,' and 'Crito,' and Aristophanes' 'Clouds'* rev edition (Cornell University Press)

Cicero, *Rhetorica ad Herennium (On the Theory of Public Speaking)*, trans Caplan, Loeb Classics #403 (Harvard)

Augustine, *Essential Sermons* (New City Press)

Phillis Levin, ed., *The Penguin Book of the Sonnet: 500 Years of a Classic Tradition in English* (Penguin)

James Daley, ed, *History's Greatest Speeches* (Dover)

Bob Blaisdell, ed, *Great English Essays: From Bacon to Chesterton* (Dover)

Josef Pieper, *Abuse of Language, Abuse of Power* (Ignatius)

A good college-level dictionary such as *The Oxford College Dictionary* (must contain short etymologies)

### Recommended Reading

The above texts will be sufficient.

### Late Submission Policy.

All assignments, unless otherwise noted, are due at the beginning of the class on the specified day. Late assignments are docked 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g. B to B-) per day, excluding Sundays and Holy Days, up to a maximum of 5 days after which the assignment will be deemed incomplete.

	Date	Grammar	Rhetoric	Exemplars/Activities	Assignments
I	Jan	<i>from English Grammar for Students of Latin</i> (NB Student will present on the point of grammar)	<i>from Elements of Style</i>	<b>ORATIONS &amp; HOMILIES</b>  (From Logic to Rhetoric)	First class: typically a short quiz/assignment is due at start of class
	11	1-2 Nouns/Gender	ES 2.8	Plato, <i>Apology</i> , first half	Second class: recitations are typically possible this day
	13	3-4 Num/Articles	ES 2.9	Plato, <i>Apology</i> , second half	
II	18	5-6 Case/subject	ES 2.10	Cicero, <i>Ad Herennium</i> , Bk 1, para 1-4 (divisions of rhetoric)	<b>Quiz</b> on EG ( <i>English Grammar for Students of Latin</i> ) chs 1-4
	20	7-8 Predicate/Posses	ES 2.11	Cicero, <i>Ad Herennium</i> , I, para 5-27	
III				<i>Begin literary figures in class</i>	<b>Quiz</b> on EG chs 5-8
	25	9-10 Objects/Pronoun	ES 2.12	Cicero, <i>Ad Herennium</i> , Bk 4, para 47-69 (techniques)	
	27	11-12 Personal Pronoun/Verb	ES 2.13	& Cicero, <i>Defense Speech</i> (hand out)  Augustine, <i>Homily tbd</i>	
IV	Feb 1	13-14 Parts of a verb/Infinitive	ES 2.14	Augustine, <i>Homily tbd</i>	<b>Quiz</b> on EG chs 9-12
	3	15-16 Verb Conjugation/Tense	ES 2.15	Augustine, <i>Homily tbd</i>	
V	8	17-18 Present tense/Past	ES 2.16	<b>EXCURSUS - POETRY</b>  Shakespeare's <i>Sonnets</i> 3 & 116	<b>Quiz</b> on EG chs 13-16/ or on the parts of the oration
	10	19-20 Pluperfect/Future	ES 2.17	John Donne, <i>Holy Sonnet</i> 14	
VI	15-19	<b>The Solemn festival of Reading Week</b>			
VII	22	21-22 Future Perfect/ Auxiliary	<i>exercises from back of Elements of Rhetoric</i> ER paras 1-2	Newman, <i>Second Spring</i> (handout)	<b>Write out</b> 3 beautiful original sentences manifesting some literary figure(s) and your 3 imitations of them.
	24	23-24 Participle/Gerund	ER 3-4	D'Arcy McGee <i>The Separate School Question</i>	
VIII	Mar 1	25-26 Active and Passive/Mood	ER 5-6	Churchill, <i>We will Fight on the Beaches</i>	<b>ER4.1-2</b> (Examples of fallacies)
	3	27-28	ER 7-8	Mother Teresa,	

		Imperative/Subjunctive		<i>Nobel Peace Prize</i>	
IX	8	29-30	ER 9-10	<b>THE ESSAY</b>	ER 7.1 and 8.1 (two descriptions)
	10	Conjunction/Sentences- Phrases-clauses  31-32 Declarative and Interrogative/Direct questions	ER 11-12-13	Francis Bacon <i>On Study</i>  Montaigne, <i>On Prayer</i>	
X	15 17	33-34 Direct and Indirect Questions/Conditionals	ER 14/SAs	Chesterton, <i>On Rain</i>	ER 14.1-2: Write two 300 word essays on War
		35-36 Adjective/Descriptive Adjective	ER 15	George Grant, <i>On The Right to Life</i>	
XI	22	37-38 Comparison Adjectives/Possessive	ER 16	<b>THE SCHOLASTIC ARTICLE</b> Thomas <i>Whether Man's Happiness consists in Wealth? ST 2- 2q2a1 (in Kreeft)</i>	ER 16.2: Essay with mark-ups  <b>March 24: Florilegium due (10%)</b>
	24	39-40 Interrogative/ Demonstrative	ER 17-1 8	Thomas <i>Whether Man's Happiness consists in Pleasure? ST 2- 2q2a6</i>	
XII	29	41-42 Adverb/Interrogative Pronoun	ER 19	<b>ADVICE ON WRITING</b> Josef Pieper, <i>Abuse of Language, Abuse of Power, first half</i>	ER 19.3: Scholastic article
	31	43-44 Possessive Pronoun/Reflective	ER 20	Pieper, <i>second half</i>	<b>March 31: Oration #1 Due -10%</b>
XIII	5	<b>No classes</b>	<i>No class</i>	<i>No class</i>	<i>NB. Last weeks for recitations</i>
	7	No grammar	ER 21.2-5	Flannery O'Connor, <i>On Writing Fiction</i>	
XIV	12	Review class		Review Final Exam and mechanics for Orations	<b>Thurs, April 15, 730pm: Oration #2 Due and performed - 15%</b>
	16	<i>Class commuted to Oration evening</i>			
XV		Final Exam			<b>Final Exam (15%)</b>

## General Academic Information

### Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.



### Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

### Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade "F" may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the **Student Handbook** in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

### Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the **Student Handbook** in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Student Handbook.

*NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.*

### Grading System

Undergraduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
Marginal	D+	1.3
	D	1.0
Fail	F	0.0

### Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

### Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Ahters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
3. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

### Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the **Academic Calendar** for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

### Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the **Academic Calendar** for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

### Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the **Student Handbook** for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

### Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

### Student Accessibility Services:

A student with special needs that could affect their performance in class should contact their professor during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. They should also register with Student Services by contacting Sr. Zoe Bernatsky at 780-392-2450 ext. 2213; email [zoe.bernatsky@newman.edu](mailto:zoe.bernatsky@newman.edu)