

# HS152 Introduction to Rhetoric

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Credit: 3-0-0-3

Approval: Approved in 2nd Senate

Prerequisite: Consent of the faculty member

Students intended for: B.Tech

Elective or Core: Elective

Semester: Odd/Even: Even

## Course objective:

The course envisages a brief survey of the rhetorical organization of speech and its centrality for structuring debate and inquiry in the arts as well as the natural sciences. It seeks to expose the student to a broad spectrum of speeches, essays, and letters drawn from across diverse disciplines to illustrate the synthetic as well as analytic potential of rhetoric as persuasive competence and performance. In particular, it seeks to help undergraduate students to attain proficiency in the skills of cogent argumentation and presentation.

## Course Content

- Definition; Brief History of Rhetoric; Literacy in Historical Perspective **(3 hrs)**
- Basic Logic – Sorting, Grading and Classifying; Categorical and Hypothetical Syllogisms, Enthymemes, Fallacies **(5 hrs)**
- Discovery of Arguments – Common and Special Topics; The Process of Persuasion: the Rhetorical Appeals; Advertisements **(10 hrs)**
- Forms of Argument: Arguments pertaining to Issues of Fact/ of Definition/ of Value **(10 hrs)**
- Ethics of Argument and Persuasion.
- Arrangement of Materials; Rhetorical Genre as Organising Principle **(6 hrs)**
- The Problem of Style **(10 hrs)**

## Text & Reference Books:

### Prescribed Text:

Edward P. J. Corbett: Classical Rhetoric for the Modern Student. New York (OUP) 1965. (With Robert J. Connors, 4/1998).

Additional Passages excerpted for practice from:

H.D. Sharma (Ed.): 100 Best Pre-Independence Speeches, 1870-1947. (Harper Collins) New Delhi 1998.

THE HANSARD. Edited verbatim report of the proceedings of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

(<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/hansard/>)

### Recommended Reading:

G. Stuart Adam & Roy Peter Clark: Journalism. The Democratic Craft. (OUP) London/New York 2005.

Mathew Allen: Smart Thinking. Skills for Critical Understanding & Writing. (OUP) London/New York 2004.

Cleanth Brooks & Robert Penn Warren: Modern Rhetoric. New York (Harcourt) 1958.

James C. McCroskey: An Introduction to Rhetorical Communication. Allyn & Bacon. Boston 2001.

Stephen Lynn: Rhetoric and Composition. (CUP) Cambridge 2001.

R.M. Ritter: The Oxford Style Manual. (OUP) New York 2003.

William Strunk Jr. & E.B. White: The Elements of Style. Allyn & Bacon. Boston 2000.