

## Engl 350: (Rhetorical theory) Unit 1 possible exam questions

The very predictable 'English Professor' way of talking provides good evidence that Foucault was right.

Pericles invited Protagoras to dinner, asking the sophist to tell him what to do when a javelin at an athletic contest went astray and killed a spectator. What would four other participants in the rhetorical tradition, including you, tell Pericles?

"In the beginning..." Narrate the origin myths for rhetoric that four participants in the rhetorical tradition, including you, would tell.

What kind of speech is needed in a democracy? Discuss the views of four participants in the rhetorical tradition, including you.

What would four participants in the rhetorical tradition, including you, say of each of the following:

[Frey's "memoir"]

[Something about the relationship of rhetoric & medicine.]

Dozens of people have been killed during demonstrations against the cartoons depicting the Mohammed in a satirical light, originally published in a Danish newspaper. Some people are marching with signs that say, "To hell with freedom." The Danish government has expressed regret for the newspaper's poor taste, but has also said that publishing the cartoons is a legitimate exercise of freedom of speech.

"Communication is a fake major"—*The Simpsons*.

The B.B.B. should be called, *This Book Is Not Required*.

Science itself is nothing more than rhetoric.

Stalin was a great rhetorician.

"Let [Truth] and Falsehood grapple; who ever knew Truth put to the worse in a free and open encounter?"—Milton, *Areopagitica*

The new ISU "WOVE" (written/oral/visual/electronic) curriculum.

Clinton was untrustworthy because he prostituted himself to the polls, saying whatever his audience wanted to hear.—No, Clinton was untrustworthy because he was a cunning rhetorician, able to persuade his audience to believe anything he wanted.

The basic public speaking course should have a unit that teaches students to be virtuous.

The rhetorician is a rapist—no, the rhetorician is a seducer—no, the rhetorician is a lover.

A rhetorician is like an auto mechanic, fixing up words instead of cars.

Rhetoric sets us free—no, it enslaves us.

Sincerity is a rhetorical virtue.

There is nothing more useful than a good theory.

Scientific knowledge comes from applying the scientific method. There is also such a thing as *rhetorical* knowledge, that comes from talking through the pros and cons of specific situations.

Politicians can fool enough of the people enough of the time to make it worthwhile for them to try.

The United Nations aims to achieve world peace by gathering together representatives of every nation, and encouraging them to talk with each other. Is this going to work?