

CAT 125R: PUBLIC RHETORIC & PRACTICAL COMMUNICATION

SS1: T/TH 10:00AM – 12:50PM

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Office Hours: Wednesdays: 11:00AM - 12:00PM or by appointment

Zoom: <https://ucsd.zoom.us/my/allisonoevans> [Passcode: 249290]

Course Description:

In this public rhetoric and practical communication course, we will use media narratives from stand-up to documentary film and TV episodes to explore how we tell our personal, professional, and political stories. The narratives we'll engage with from *Nanette* to Gloria Anzaldúa's writings and the 1619 Project, will situate personal stories, research, and expertise within broader histories and geopolitics, mobilizing rhetorical devices from humor and emotion to lighting and costuming. The texts we watch will serve as (fun, hopefully) springboards to discuss different topics and rhetorical strategies and how to play with those same strategies in our own self-presentation.

This course will be part discussion and part writing workshop, driving towards helping you think through your future plans from graduation to life after college, from graduate school to getting a job you want/like. Part of this will entail using reflective strategies for reading, watching, and listening rhetorically, i.e. being mindful of contexts, messages, and audiences. You will also practice several modes of rhetorical speaking and writing, making decisions about content and structure to inform, persuade, or tell a story, and ultimately support you as you hone your voice and style. Finally you will develop strategic plans, turn your goals into actions, and discuss and develop a work-life balance. Exercises and assignments are loosely structured so as to allow you to compose texts that will support your present and/or future-life hopes and goals, while highlighting different stages of the writing process, from prewriting and drafting to peer review and collaborative revision.

Course Goals: Writing, Research, and Self-Presentation

- Practice reflective strategies for reading, watching, listening, and writing
- Develop proficiency in public presentation, documentation, and curation
- Examine your authority as a writer (and how authority in authorship works in terms of race, gender, and sexuality)
- Understand and employ various rhetorical strategies appropriately
- Clearly direct written, spoken, and digital compositions to multiple and diverse audiences.

Required Texts & Technology

- Netflix subscription (week 2-4)
- Access to Canvas & Course Reserves
- Recommended: *They Say, I Say CAT Edition*

Email Policy

The best way to contact me (aside from office hours) is via email. I ask that you expect and allow 48 hours for me to respond. If you do not hear back from me within that window, please email again and politely remind me about your message. Please note that I *typically* do not respond to emails Friday evenings-Sunday mornings.

Students with Disabilities

Students requesting accommodations and services due to a disability for this course need to provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), prior to eligibility for requests. Receipt of AFAs in advance is necessary for appropriate planning for the provision of reasonable accommodations. OSD Academic Liaisons also need to receive current AFA letters. For additional information, contact the Office for Students with Disabilities:

858.534.4382 (V)

858.534.9709 (TTY) - *Reserved for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.*

osd@ucsd.edu

<http://disabilities.ucsd.edu>

Academic Integrity

UCSD has a university-wide Policy on Integrity of Scholarship, published annually in the General Catalog:

“Academic Integrity is expected of everyone at UC San Diego. This means that you must be honest, fair, responsible, respectful, and trustworthy in all of your actions. Lying, cheating or any other forms of dishonesty will not be tolerated because they undermine learning and the University’s ability to certify students’ knowledge and abilities. Thus, any attempt to get, or help another get, a grade by cheating, lying or dishonesty will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office and will result sanctions. Sanctions can include an F in this class and suspension or dismissal from the University. So, think carefully before you act by asking yourself: a) is what I’m about to do or submit for credit an honest, fair, respectful, responsible & trustworthy representation of my knowledge and abilities at this time and, b) would my instructor approve of my action? You are ultimately the only person responsible for your behavior. So, if you are unsure, don’t ask a friend—ask your instructor, instructional assistant, or the Academic Integrity Office. You can learn more about academic integrity at academicintegrity.ucsd.edu.”

(Source: Academic Integrity Office, 2018)

UCSD Principles of Community

The UCSD Principles of Community are a rigorous outline of the values which the university strives to uphold. This course operates within this set of values in order to facilitate a learning environment which is fair, cooperative, and professional. They are below; you can find more about these principles [here](#).

- We value each member of the UC San Diego community for his or her individual and unique talents, and applaud all efforts to enhance the quality of campus life. We recognize that each individual's effort is vital to achieving the goals of the University.
- We affirm each individual's right to dignity and strive to maintain a climate of justice marked by mutual respect for each other.
- We value the cultural diversity of UC San Diego because it enriches our lives and the University. We celebrate this diversity and support respect for all cultures, by both individuals and the University as a whole.
- We are a university that adapts responsibly to cultural differences among the faculty, staff, students, and community.
- We acknowledge that our society carries historical and divisive biases based on race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, and political beliefs. Therefore, we seek to foster understanding and tolerance among individuals and groups, and we promote awareness through education and constructive strategies for resolving conflict.
- We reject acts of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, and political beliefs, and, we will confront and appropriately respond to such acts.
- We affirm the right to freedom of expression at UC San Diego. We promote open expression of our individuality and our diversity within the bounds of courtesy, sensitivity, confidentiality, and respect.
- We are committed to the highest standards of civility and decency toward all. We are committed to promoting and supporting a community where all people can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of abusive or demeaning treatment.
- We are committed to the enforcement of policies that promote the fulfillment of these principles.

Participation

Attending lectures and participating in discussion are a small portion of what counts as participation. You must earn your participation grade through various forms of engagement with the course. Such forms include, but are not limited to:

- Engaging in discussion and online communication
- Asking questions in office hours
- Completing readings
- Working respectfully with others

- Coming to section on time
- Taking notes
- Putting away distractions

A – You are well prepared for class, demonstrated by: having all your materials; consistently contributing to discussion; asking productive questions; listening actively and taking notes; engaging in group work; supporting and respecting other students; respecting the instructor and course material; attending office hours; coming to lecture on time and staying for the entire class time; taking responsibility for any work or material missed if absent; overall proactive and attentive.

B – You are somewhat prepared for class, demonstrated by: occasionally contributing to discussion; listening actively; engaging in group work; respecting other students; respecting the instructor, and course material; mostly coming to lecture on time and staying for the entire class time; overall responsible.

C – You are inconsistently prepared for class, demonstrated by: rarely contributing to discussion; missing materials; managing time poorly; working well with others, but unable to contribute fairly; respecting instructor, and course materials; mostly coming to lecture on time and staying for the entire class time; overall, inconsistent.

D – You are physically present but mentally disengaged from the course, demonstrated by: never contributing to discussion in lecture; consistently coming to class late or leaving early; working well with others, but unable to contribute fairly; failing to develop any relationships with instructor; overall, disengaged.

F – You demonstrate through behavior and/or language that you are uninterested in learning; or, alternatively, you are regularly disrespectful of other students, the instructor, or course material.

Attendance

This course will be held synchronously on Zoom and will not be recorded (unless otherwise stated). Your attendance and participation is required. You are allowed 1 unexcused absence. For every absence after 2, you will lose 1/3 a letter grade of your overall participation grade. After 4 absences, you may fail the course.

Assignment Submission and Late Work

- All major assignments require you to submit a rough draft before the final due date. While the draft does not count towards your grade, failure to submit a draft will result in the loss of a letter grade on the final submission.
- In order to receive a letter grade, all assignments must be submitted through Canvas.
- For each day work is late, your grade goes down by 1/3 letter. If the assignment is more than a week late, you will receive a 0.

Assignments

All assignments must be original work created for this class and should ascribe to UCSD's policy of academic integrity. All major assignments will be graded using the CAT 125 Rubric.

- **Personal Narrative** (20%)
- **Public Performance** (30%)
- **Final Reflection & Portfolio** (15%)
- **Participation** (10%)
 - This includes (but is not limited to) in-class participation, attending office hours, and participating in peer review.
- **Discussion Board** (10%)
 - You will post THREE times a week (*except for week 1*). You will offer an original response to a question I pose about the assigned readings/content AND respond to your peers. These posts will prepare you for conversations in sections. Your original post should be done before our first discussion section of the week. Subsequent posts/responses to your peers should be submitted by Friday.
- **Reflections/Proposals** (15%)
- **Resume/CV**
 - For discussion and workshop.