

LITS3301 ISSUES IN CRITICISM

TERM PAPER, SEMESTER II, 2012-2013

BASED ON MODULE ONE: RHETORICAL THEORY

Answer **ONE** of the following questions, referring closely to the texts of the theorists in question:

1. Explore Fish's account of the 'quarrel between philosophy and rhetoric' by comparing ONE philosophical work with ONE rhetorical work with which you are familiar.
2. What is 'epistemic rhetoric'? Answer with reference to Weaver's "Language is Sermonic" AND Scott's "On Viewing Rhetoric as Epistemic."
3. "The 'new rhetoric' contends that in real world situations we most often do not argue in the narrowly syllogistic ways suggested by Aristotle." Discuss with reference to Perelman's "The New Rhetoric" and/or Toulmin's "The Layout of Arguments."
4. "Figurative language is more than a mere ornament designed to facilitate communication and superimposed on an already extant, underlying meaning." Discuss with reference to the views of the following thinkers:
 - Nietzsche, "On Truth and Lies in a Non-Moral Sense"
 - Burke, "Poetic and Semantic Meaning" and/or "The Four Master Tropes" and/or "Terministic Screens"
5. "The Ancients' preoccupation with 'delivery' has evolved into a concern with what is today called the 'rhetorical situation.'" Explain with reference to the views of *at least TWO* of the following theorists:
 - Burke, "Definition of Man" and/or the Introduction to his Grammar of Motives
 - Bitzer, "The Rhetorical Situation"
 - Black, "The Second Persona"
6. Write a rhetorical analysis of a short text of your choice devoted to a non-literary subject (e.g. a work of historical scholarship, a legal speech, a political speech, etc.), paying particular attention to the following:
 - Invention
 - Style
 - The Rhetorical Situation

DEADLINE: 5 pm, Tuesday March 26, 2013

LENGTH: 7 pages maximum (typewritten, double-spaced)

CLOSE READING: In your answer, you should refer closely to the texts in question.

ESSAY WRITING: It is your responsibility to submit a *well-written* essay in response to

one of the questions listed above. Please note that LITS3301, like all other Level II and III courses in Literatures in English, is not designed to teach you how to write an essay. It is assumed, rather, that you are equipped with the basic skills of essay writing of the sort tackled in the Level I Foundation Language courses. If you have problems, severe or otherwise, expressing yourself on paper coherently and correctly, please seek advice as to how you may fix them. Please also consult my Essay Writing Guidelines posted online for essential advice on putting your term paper together.

PLAGIARISM:

UWI requires that all students print, fill out and attach the Plagiarism Accountability Statement to all written work submitted. Please download the handout from my homepage or elsewhere on the Cave Hill website. No submissions will be accepted without it.