



RHETORIC AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES

RHETORIC.RICHMOND.EDU

Introduction to Rhetoric and Communication Studies

The Department of Rhetoric and Communication Studies (RHCS) continues a tradition that began in Greek antiquity, when the study of rhetoric organized the education of citizens in the arts of thinking, speaking, deliberating, debating, and deciding issues of politics, law, and culture. RHCS focuses on how and why people communicate and the effects of communication on publics, peoples, and cultures. The department is invested in teaching the arts of communication, including critical thinking, writing, speaking, debating, and relating to shape the liberal arts learner and the global citizen. The curriculum is organized through three focus areas: rhetoric, relational communication, and digital media studies. RHCS faculty explore and discover with students the many ideas about and practices of rhetoric, power, politics, law, media, culture, and communication.

Learning Environment

Faculty members bring their immersion in their research focus areas to the classroom to inspire innovative learning. Faculty mentor students on semester papers, collaborative research projects, independent studies, presentations of research in both the classroom and conference settings, and the design and delivery of speeches. Moreover, because rhetoric and communication studies is an interdisciplinary field, the department encourages discovery in the spaces between disciplines.

Faculty teach connections between rhetoric, communication, philosophy, political science, psychology, anthropology, journalism, literary theory, composition, visual arts, media production, the classics, and data science. This interdisciplinary approach inspires innovative thinking and offers students a range of possibilities for forging new spaces of inquiry and figuring ways to create new knowledge.

Opportunities in Rhetoric and Communication Studies

Courses in rhetoric, media, and digital humanities form the core of student classroom opportunities, including semester research papers and presentations. In addition to classroom work, students and faculty frequently collaborate on research projects, producing both conference papers and publications.

RHCS students are encouraged to study abroad. The department also has an active honors program and a chapter of Lambda Pi Eta national honor society.

Recent Faculty-Taught Seminars

Rhetoric and Law
Propaganda and Democracy
Data and Society
Media Studies
Intercultural Communication
Digital Humanities Workshop
Election 2022: Processes of Political Communication
Critical Game Studies
Rhetoric and Religion
#BlackGirlsMadeThis: An Introduction to Black Feminist Digital Media Studies

Service and Internships

Internship and service-learning activities allow RHCS students to be active in the community and professional world as they apply course material in off-campus settings. Service and internship opportunities are arranged with faculty support and can be conducted at any time of year. These experiences help develop the flexibility and preparation necessary for success in today's complex, changing world.

Recent Internship or Service Sites

Baltimore Center Stage
Bergman Group, Richmond
CIGNA Corporation
CNN, London

Clear Channel Radio, Q94, Richmond
Continental Airlines Government Affairs Office
Cornerstone Marketing
Dominion Power
Elle Tahari
ESPN Radio
FCB Advertising
Grey Advertising
International Hospital for Children
MTV Nickelodeon Network
Richmond Magazine
Troutman Sanders LLP
USA Today
Virginia Attorney General's Office
Virginia Home for Boys
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
WTVR-TV, Richmond

Recent Student and Student/Faculty Collaborative Research Projects

Ethan Vroom, Summer Research Fellowship. "Rhetoric, Intersectionality, and the Carl Van Vechten/Mark Lutz Collection at the University of Richmond."
Haley Hom, Honors Thesis. "A New Type of Vaccine: Theorization of the COVID-19 Monster Trope on A/AAPI Communities and Possible Rhetorical Inoculations," Mentor: Tim Barney.

Hannah Grace Howell, Honors Thesis. "Race & Racism Rhetoric: Tropes in U.S. High School History Textbooks," Mentor: Mari Lee Mifsud.

Jordyn Lofton, Summer Research Fellowship. "Aesthetics of the Old South: Why Contemporary Plantation Weddings Still Exist," Mentor: Nicole Maurantonio.

Recent Graduate Employment

Accenture
Advisory Board
Bell Atlantic
Bloomberg
CapitalOne

Catholic Charities USA
CNN
Columbia/HCA Hospitals
CSX Transportation
ESPN
Forest Pharmaceuticals
Grey Advertising
Kadix Systems
Kings Dominion
Lead Dog Marketing
The Martin Agency
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
O'Keeffe & Company
Pfizer, Inc.
Pro Staff
Procter and Gamble
Sotheby's Institute, London
Teach for America
Turner Broadcasting, Inc.
20th Century Fox
UBS Financial Services
US Airways
U.S. Senate
Virginia Department of Health
Wells Fargo & Company
The Whitney Museum

Graduate School Acceptances

Baylor University
Georgetown University
The George Washington University
London School of Economics
New York University
Penn State University
Syracuse University
University of Buffalo
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Iowa
University of Maryland
University of Pennsylvania
University of Texas, Austin
Wake Forest University

Jobs of Recent Graduates

Acute-care specialist
Attorney
Conference director
Director of development
Entrepreneur/business owner
Human resources director
K-12 teacher
Marketing manager
Medical sales representative
National accounts manager
Physician representative
Professor
Public affairs director
Public relations director
Speech writer
Training and development director
TV reporter/anchor

Faculty Areas of Specialty

Visual Rhetoric
Geopolitics
Intercultural Communication
Presidential Rhetoric
Public Address
Rhetorical Theory
Rhetorical Criticism
War Rhetoric
Television Studies
Performance Studies
Geek Culture
Speech Writing
Public Speaking
Interpersonal Communication
Group Communication
Communication Theory
Public Memory
Qualitative Research
US Media History
Race and Representation
Ancient Greek Rhetorical Theory
Transnational Rhetoric
Digital Humanities
New Media Studies
Game Studies



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