Classics 289: Studies in Ancient Genres (Oratory and Rhetoric)

MW at 1:00–2:15 pm

Instructor:  David Camden, Department of Classics (david.camden@emory.edu)
office hours: Tu 2:30–4:30pm and by appointment (221E Candler Library)

Description:
The art of the speaker (*hē rhētorikē technē, ars oratoria*) was of paramount importance to the Greeks and Romans. In this course, we will study the history, techniques, and reception of Classical oratory, from Homer to the Second Sophistic. In weeks 1–3, we will read Cicero’s *On the Orator*, a dialogue that provides an accessible introduction to ancient rhetorical theory. We will then examine, in weeks 4–14, the speeches of Gorgias, Isocrates, Demosthenes, Cicero, and other famous Classical orators.

Prerequisites
None. All readings will be in English, and no knowledge of ancient history is required.

Required text:

Other readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Assessment:
• Attendance and contributions to class discussion 15%
• Discussion facilitation (one or two days per student, depending on enrollment) 10%
• Midterm (in class, Thurs., Feb. 28) 25%
• Written assignment (4–6 pages, due in class, Mon., Apr. 21) 15%
• Final (Tues., May 6, 3:00–5:30pm) 35%

Schedule of assignments:
(All readings should be completed by the date for which they are assigned)

Wed., Jan. 15: Introduction
Readings: Lucian, *The Consonants at Law* (to be distributed and read in class)

Mon., Jan. 20: NO CLASS (MLK Holiday)

UNIT 1: Cicero’s *On the Orator*

Readings: Cicero, *On the Orator* 1.1–109

Readings: Cicero, *On the Orator* 1.113–265
Readings: Cicero, *On the Orator* 2.1–151

Mon., Feb. 3: Cicero, *On the Orator*, part 4  
Readings: Cicero, *On the Orator* 2.152–367

Readings: Cicero, *On the Orator* 3.1–227

**UNIT 2: Greek oratory, part 1: The rise of the sophists**

Mon., Feb. 10: Odysseus *polutropos*  
Readings: Selections from the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*

Wed., Feb. 12: Protagoras & Gorgias  
Readings: Selections from Protagoras and Gorgias

Mon., Feb. 17: Antiphon(s)  
Readings: Selections from Antiphon

Wed., Feb. 19: Sophists in tragedy and comedy  
Readings: Selections from Euripides and Aristophanes

Mon., Feb. 24: Isocrates, part 1  
Readings: Isocrates, *Against the Sophists, Busiris*

Wed., Feb. 26: Isocrates, part 2  
Readings: Isocrates, *Helen, Antidosis* (selections)

Mon., Mar. 3: Alcidamas & Plato  

Wed., Mar. 5: MIDTERM

Mon., Mar. 10 & Wed., Mar. 12: NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)

**UNIT 3: Greek oratory, part 2: Forensic and political oratory**

Mon., Mar. 17: Lysias  
Readings: Lysias 1, 12

Wed., Mar. 19: The funeral oration  
Readings: Thucydides 2.34–46; Lysias 2; Demosthenes 60

Mon., Mar. 24: Demosthenes vs. Philip II of Macedon  
Readings: Demosthenes, *First Philippic*

Wed., Mar. 26: Demosthenes vs. Aeschines, part 1  
Readings: Aeschines, *Against Ctesiphon*

Mon., Mar. 31: Demosthenes vs. Aeschines, part 2  
Readings: Demosthenes, *On the Crown*
UNIT 4: Roman oratory

Wed., Apr. 2: Cicero on offense
Readings: Cicero, *Against Piso*

Mon., Apr. 7: Cicero on defense
Readings: Cicero, *For Milo*

Wed., Apr. 9: Cicero vs. Antony
Readings: Cicero, *Second Philippic*

Mon., Apr. 14: The elder Seneca and Quintilian
Readings: Selections from Seneca and Quintilian

Wed., Apr. 16: Tacitus’ *Dialogus de oratoribus*
Readings: Tacitus, *Dialogus de oratoribus*

UNIT 5: The Second Sophistic

Mon., Apr. 21: Herodes Atticus

* * written assignment due * *

Wed., Apr. 23: Dio Chrysostom
Readings: Dio Chrysostom, *Olympicus, Euboicus*

Mon., Apr. 28: Lucian
Readings: Lucian, *The Dream, Professor of Public Speaking*