COMM 327—American Oratory
Texas A&M University  Semester 2XXX
Rich. 106       MWF       9:10-10:00AM

Course Director and Instructor
Dr. Jennifer Jones Barbour

E-Mail: jonesbarbour@tamu.edu

Office: Bolton Hall 209C
Office Hours: MW 11:30AM-1:30PM, F 2:00-4:00PM, and by appointment

Course Description:
Communication 327 survey of significant American oratory; critical analysis of important speeches in their historical, political, social, and philosophical contexts

Course Overview:
The United States began with a rhetorical act. Before “America” was a recognized as a sovereign entity, its meaning was expressed in the Declaration of Independence. Affirmations, challenges, and alterations to our conception of national identity and values have, in kind, emerged through numerous public debates and episodes of rhetorical discourse. This class is designed to familiarize students with significant speeches, documents, and rhetorical movements that have shaped our conception of United States culture from colonial times to the present. First and foremost, this course demonstrates the importance of public discourse in the formation, continuation, and mutation of social and political ideas. No single class can comprehensively cover such an expansive topic. However, by considering these important texts as relevant to a longer, ongoing conversation, students will gain further insight into the political and rhetorical context of American existence, and the longer history of ideas that have shaped our conceptions of public life.

Course Learning Outcomes:
By the end of the semester, the successful COMM 327 student will be able to:

1. Define public discourse and describe the importance of oratory to civic and political contexts.

2. Identify, describe, and contrast various ideological perspectives relative to political and social movements in American public address.

3. Critique rhetorical texts for their communicative and ethical values, including argumentative strategies, constitutive impact, and popular/political response.

Course Format:
This is a lecture class. My presentations will add to your understanding of the assigned readings, however, neither presentations nor lecture notes will be reproduced outside of class.
—Required Text:

—Additional Readings and Texts will be available on Elearning (EL), and the website: [http://www.americanrhetoric.com].

**CLASS POLICIES**

—Attendance:
Attendance is required in order for students to succeed. While I will not “take roll” each day, understanding the concepts and information discussed in lecture will be essential for performing well in this course. Without consistent class attendance and active listening, you will be at a severe disadvantage when preparing for exams.

—Course Evaluation of Learning
Your grade will be determined by three exams taken throughout the semester. The first and second exam will cover material from the preceding units (both reading assignments and class discussion). The third exam is cumulative of all material covered throughout the semester. All assigned readings are considered relevant to course exams. Lastly, each exam requires that you bring a Scantron sheet (remember your student ID for test dates). Review sheets will be available prior to each exam.

—Make-up Exams:
All exams must be completed to pass the course. Students may not make up an exam without an appeal for an excused absence recognized in University Rules. For an elaborate overview on the University’s position on excused absences, please refer to: [http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07].

—A General Note on American Oratory and COMM. 327.
American public address is full of controversial topics, positions, and statements. As a student enrolled in this university, you do not have a right to not be offended by what you read or discuss in the classroom. It is perfectly okay to disagree with something we read or talk about in this class. It’s not okay, however, to forget that reasonable people disagree on questions of value and policy all the time, and that part of your development as a scholar and citizen is to understand a wide array of positions that inform American political thought. In other words, is imperative that we understand American oratory more for what it teaches us about the evolution of our public language, and less for whether we personally agree or disagree with a given speech text. Reading speeches for indications of how individuals create, arrange, and deliver a message will be much more fulfilling than answering your personal “agree/disagree” position on the subject. If you attend class, read the material, and keep an open mind you will get along fine throughout the semester.

—The Americans with Disabilities Act Statement
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit [http://disability.tamu.edu].
The Aggie Honor Code http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do."

As a student of this university, your performance in the classroom reflects the integrity of the Honor Code. Ignorance of student rules does not excuse you from the requirements of the TAMU Honor System. I don't tolerate cheating and neither should you. Any recorded instance of academic dishonesty will be pursued to its fullest measure.

COURSE GRADES:
You will receive a letter grade for each exam. That's three letter grades in total. To calculate your overall course grade, you need to calculate a weighted grade point average based on those letter grades using the following weights:

Exam 1 - 33%
Exam 2 - 33%
Exam 3-Final - 34%

Letter grades have the following numerical equivalents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>F</td>
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To calculate your course grade point average, use this formula.

\[ (\_\_ X 0.33) + (\_\_ X 0.33) + (\_\_ X 0.34) = \text{Course GPA} \]

To convert your course GPA into a course letter grade, use this scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course GPA</th>
<th>Course Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.5000 and up</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.5000 and up</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.5000 and up</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.5000 and up</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>below 0.5000</td>
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So, for example, a student who earned an A- (3.667) on the first exam, a B+ (3.333) on the second, and an A- (3.667) on the third would have a course average of \[ 3.5567 = (3.667 \times 0.33) + (3.333 \times 0.33) + (3.667 \times 0.34) \]. Looking at the scale, a 3.5567 would be an A.

Grades are updated regularly on elearning. Questions regarding grades should always be asked in-person and not over e-mail whenever possible. Also, students should wait 24 hours after feedback has been received to discuss grades. Never hesitate to make an appointment to meet and discuss your progress in this course.
# Calendar
(Unexpected circumstances may cause slight changes to the semester schedule. Should this occur, you will receive notice via TAMU neo email.)

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<td><strong>Week One</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>M 1/14</td>
<td>Introduction to Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>W 1/16</td>
<td>The Study of Public Address</td>
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<tr>
<td>F 1/18</td>
<td><strong>&quot;Introduction to the Study of Oratory&quot;</strong></td>
<td>(Reid/Klumpp) 1-19</td>
<td><strong>&quot;Eulogy for Martin Luther King, Jr.&quot;</strong> (1968)</td>
<td>R. F. Kennedy (American Rhetoric)</td>
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*Last Day to Add/Drop for Spring Semester*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLITICAL OCCASIONS</th>
<th>PRESIDENTIAL RHETORIC</th>
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**Week Two**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M 1/21</td>
<td>MLK HOLIDAY—CLASS DOES NOT MEET</td>
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<tr>
<td>W 1/23</td>
<td><strong>&quot;A Tale of Two Constructs&quot;</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Obama</strong> (American Rhetoric)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>&quot;Second Inaugural&quot; (2013)</td>
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**Inaugural Addresses**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F 1/25</td>
<td>First Inaugural (1789)</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Washington</strong> (RK), 186-202</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First Inaugural (1933)</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Roosevelt</strong> (RK), 747-751</td>
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**Week Three**

**National Eulogies**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M 1/28</td>
<td><strong>&quot;Challenger Address&quot;</strong> (1986)</td>
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<td><strong>Reagan</strong>, (EL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Speech for Victims of the Oklahoma City Bombing</strong> (1995)</td>
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<td><strong>Clinton</strong> (EL)</td>
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**Convention Speeches**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W 1/30</td>
<td><strong>&quot;A Time for Choosing&quot;</strong> (1965)</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ronald Reagan</strong> (RK) 756-766</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>&quot;A Tale of Two Cities&quot;</strong> (1984)</td>
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<td><strong>Mario Cuomo</strong> (American Rhetoric)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>&quot;Address to the RNC&quot;</strong> (2012)</td>
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<td><strong>Condoleezza Rice</strong> (American Rhetoric)</td>
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**Memorializing**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F 2/1</td>
<td><strong>&quot;Oration in Memory of Abraham Lincoln</strong> (1876)</td>
<td>Frederick Douglass (EL)</td>
<td></td>
<td>John Hancock (RK), 98-107.</td>
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<td><strong>&quot;Boston Massacre Oration&quot;</strong> (1774)</td>
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**Week Four**

**FRAMING REVOLUTION | ARGUING CONSTITUTION**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M 2/4</td>
<td><strong>&quot;On the Writs of Assistance&quot;</strong> (1761)</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>James Otis</strong> (EL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>&quot;Liberty or Death&quot;</strong> (1774)</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Patrick Henry</strong> (RK), 108-112.</td>
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<tr>
<td>W 2/6</td>
<td><strong>&quot;Common Sense&quot;</strong> (1776)</td>
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<td><strong>Thomas Paine</strong> (RK), 112-127</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>&quot;The Declaration of Independence&quot;</strong> (1776)</td>
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<td><strong>Thomas Jefferson</strong> (EL)</td>
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Week Five

M 2/11
“Virginia Ratifying Convention” (1788) Henry and Madison (RK), 148-173

W 2/13
“Farewell Address” (1796) G. Washington (RK), 186-202
“An Address on Life as a Female Revolutionary Soldier” (1797) D. S. Gannett (EL)

F 2/15
“First Inaugural” (1801) Thomas Jefferson (RK), 203-207
Exam One Review

Week Six

M 2/18
EXAM ONE

RELIGIOUS SPEECH | (RE)DEFINING CIVIL RELIGION

W 2/20
“A Model of Christian Charity” (1630) John Winthrop (RK), 24-36
“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” (1741) Jonathan Edwards (RK), 65-78

F 2/22
“Houston Ministerial Association” (1960) J. F. Kennedy (RK) 831-836

Week Seven

M 2/25
“To the Hebrew Congregation in Newport” (1790) G. Washington (EL)

W 2/27
“Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World” (1829) David Walker (EL)
“To the Public” (1831) William Lloyd Garrison (RK), 286-290

F 3/1
“Declaration” (1833) American Anti-Slavery Society (RK), 309-314
“Address at Pennsylvania Hall” (1838) Angelina Grimké (EL)
“Declaration of Sentiments” (1848) Seneca Falls Convention (RK), 331-334

Week Eight

M 3/4
“Slavery as a Positive Good” (1837) John Calhoun (EL)
“What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” (1852) Frederick Douglass (EL)
“The Irrepressible Conflict” (1858) William Seward (EL)

W 3/6
“Cooper Union” (1860) Abraham Lincoln (RK), 426-441
“First Inaugural” (1861) A. Lincoln (RK), 448-455
“Inaugural Address” (1861) Jefferson Davis (RK), 442-447

F 3/8
“Gettysburg Address” (1863) A. Lincoln (RK), 456-458
“Second Inaugural Address” (1865) A. Lincoln (RK), 460-462

M 3/11-3/15
SPRING BREAK—CLASS DOES NOT MEET
### Week Nine

**M 3/18**
- “The New South” (1886)  
- “The Labor Question” (1888)  
- “Wealth” (1889)  

**W 3/20**
- “The Solitude of Self” (1892)  
- “Why Women Should Vote” (1910)  
- “Concession Speech” (2008)  

**F 3/22**
- “A Moral Necessity for Birth Control” (1921)  
- “Choices and Change” (1990)  
- Exam Two Review  

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### Week Ten

**M 3/25**  
**EXAM TWO**

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### FORGING (INTER)NATIONALISM | APPEALING JUSTICE

**W 3/27**
- “A’nt I A Woman?” (1851)  
- “Speech to the Women’s Rights Convention” (1855)  

**F 3/29**  
**READING DAY—CLASS DOES NOT MEET**

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### Week Eleven

**M 4/1**
- “Cotton States Exposition” (1895)  
- “Of Mr. Booker T. Washington” (1903)  

**W 4/3**
- “The Man With the Muck Rake” (1906)  
- “War Message” (1917)  

**F 4/5**
- “Free Speech in Wartime” (1917)  
- “Statement to the Court” (1918)  

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**Tuesday, April 2nd—Last Day to Q-Drop Without Penalty**

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### Week Twelve

**M 4/8**
- “First Fireside Chat” (1934)  
- “Every Man a King” (1934)  

**W 4/10**
- “War Message” (1941)  
- “The Truman Doctrine” (1947)  
- “Address to Congress” (2001)  

**F 4/12**
- “The Serious Situation in Little Rock” (1957)  
- “Civil Rights: A Moral Issue” (1963)  
- “We Shall Overcome” (1965)  

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- **Henry W. Grady (RK)**, 492-500  
- **Samuel Gompers (RK)**, 607-613  
- **Andrew Carnegie (RK)**, 559-567  
- **Elizabeth Cady Stanton (RK)**, 647-655  
- **Jane Addams (EL)**  
- **Hillary Clinton (American Rhetoric)**  
- **Margaret Sanger (RK)**, 819-830  
- **Barbara Bush (EL)**  
- **Sojourner Truth (EL)**  
- **Lucy Stone (EL)**  
- **Booker T. Washington (RK)**, 504-508  
- **W.E.B. DuBois (RK)**, 509-518  
- **Theodore Roosevelt (RK)**, 586-595  
- **Woodrow Wilson (RK)**, 690-699  
- **Robert LaFollette (RK)**, 812-818  
- **Eugene V. Debs (EL)**  
- **Franklin Roosevelt (RK)**, 752-755  
- **Huey Long (EL)**  
- **Franklin Roosevelt (RK)**, 730-732  
- **Harry Truman (American Rhetoric)**  
- **George W. Bush (RK)**, 804-810  
- **D. Eisenhower (EL)**  
- **J. F. Kennedy (EL)**  
- **Lyndon Johnson (EL)**
Week Thirteen

M 4/14  "I Have a Dream" (1963)  Martin Luther King, Jr. (RK), 837-843
        "The Ballot or the Bullet" (1964)  Malcolm X (American Rhetoric)


F 4/18  "Speech at Harvard University" (1947)  George C. Marshall (EL)
        "Address to Congress" (1951)  Douglas MacArthur (EL)
        "Final Address to West Point" (2011)  Robert Gates (American Rhetoric)

WARNING | APOLOGY | PERSISTING QUESTIONS

Week Fourteen

M 4/21  "Farewell Address" (1961)  Dwight Eisenhower (EL)
        "A Crisis of Confidence" (1979)  Jimmy Carter (American Rhetoric)

W 4/23  "Checkers" (1952)  Richard Nixon (American Rhetoric)
        "Chappaquiddick" (1969)  Edward Kennedy (American Rhetoric)

F 4/25  "Statement to the House Judiciary Committee" (1974)  Barbara Jordan (EL)

Redefined Days

M 4/28  "Katherine Varnum et al. v. Timothy J. Brien" (2009)  Iowa Supreme Court (EL)
        "Address on Religious Tolerance" (2010)  M. Bloomberg (American Rhetoric)

T 4/29  REDEFINED DAY—Review for Exam Three

Tuesday, 5/7  Final Exam—8:00-10:00AM