Reason, Rhetoric, and Leadership
LDSP 390/03
PLSC 379/06
Spring 2004

Wednesday: 2:40-5:20pm
Jepson Hall 108

Professor Gary L. McDowell
Jepson Hall 135
Office Hours: Wednesday 5:30-6:30
and by appointment

[The most noble and profitable invention of all other, was that of Speech, consisting of Names or Appellations, and their Connexion; whereby men register Their thoughts; recall them when they are past; and also declare them to one another for mutual utility and conversation; without which, there had been amongst men, neither Common-wealth, nor Society, nor Contract, nor Peace, no more than amongst Lyons, Bears, and Wolves.

— Thomas Hobbes

This course will examine the relationship between rhetoric (both speech and writing) and leadership. The underlying objective will be to understand how to translate ideas into practice, how to persuade by making convincing arguments. Our study will proceed by focusing on several of the most historically important speeches and writings, ranging from the speeches within Thucydides’ History of the Peloponnesian War (and a consideration of Thucydides’ own rhetorical purposes in using the speeches in his history) to Winston Churchill in the 20th century.

Attendance and participation are expected and will be reflected as part of the final grade (15%). There will also be a final examination (35%), one short paper on a topic to be assigned (15%), and a major research paper on a topic to be agreed (35%).

Participation will be calculated on quality, not simply quantity. It is expected that all the readings for a given date will be done in advance of that class meeting and everyone will be prepared to discuss the assigned materials.
The short paper assignment will be distributed in class on February 17th; the paper will be due in class on March 2nd. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade per day, including weekends.

The topic for the research paper must be approved in advance. A one-page, double-spaced proposal, accompanied by a preliminary bibliography will be due in class on March 23rd. The paper is due in class on April 20th. As with the short paper assignment, late research papers will be penalized one letter grade per day, including weekends.

Required Texts:

Aristotle, Art of Rhetoric
Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War
Pauline Maier, American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence
Clinton Rossiter, ed., The Federalist Papers
Don E. Fehrenbacher, ed., Abraham Lincoln: A Documentary Portrait
Don E. Fehrenbacher, Prelude to Greatness: Lincoln in the 1850's
Ronald White, Lincoln's Greatest Speech: The Second Inaugural
Garry Wills, Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words that Remade America
John Lukacs, Churchill: Visionary, Statesman, Historian
Winston S. Churchill, Never Give In: The Greatest Speeches of Winston Churchill

Reserved Texts:

Wayne Fields, Union of Words: A History of Presidential Eloquence
Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan
John Locke, An Essay Concerning Human Understanding
Clifford Orwin, The Humanity of Thucydides

I. Reason and Rhetoric in Historical Context: Thucydides' History
(January 14, 21, 28)

Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War

Recommended:

Leo Strauss, The City and Man
Clifford Orwin, The Humanity of Thucydides
II. Rhetoric, Reason, and Human Nature
(February 4, 11)

Aristotle, *The Art of Rhetoric*


Wayne Fields, *Union of Words*, chapter one.

III. Our Lives, Our Fortunes and Our Sacred Honor:
The Declaration of Independence
(February 18)

The Declaration of Independence

Pauline Maier, *American Scripture*

Thomas Jefferson, Letter to Roger C. Weightman, 24 June 1826

IV. Government from Reflection and Choice: The Federalist Papers
(February 25, March 3)

The Constitution

Clinton Rossiter, ed., *The Federalist Papers*


V. The Better Angels of Our Nature: Abraham Lincoln and the War for the Union
March 17, 24, 31)

Don E. Fehrenbacher, *Prelude to Greatness: Lincoln in the 1850's*
Abraham Lincoln, “Speech to the Young Men’s Lyceum,” 27 January 1838 (all Lincoln speeches are in Fehrenbacher, ed., Abraham Lincoln: A Documentary Portrait)

Abraham Lincoln, “Eulogy on Henry Clay,” 6 July 1852

--------------------, “Speech at a Republican Banquet,” 10 December 1856

--------------------, “The House Divided Speech,” 16 June 1858

--------------------, Letter to Henry L. Pierce, 6 April 1859

--------------------, “Speech at Columbus, Ohio,” 16 September 1859

--------------------, “The Cooper Institute Address,” 27 February 1860

--------------------, “First Inaugural Address,” 4 March 1861

--------------------, “Annual Message to Congress,” 1 December 1862

--------------------, “The Gettysburg Address,” 19 November 1863

--------------------, “Second Inaugural Address,” 4 March 1865

Garry Wills, Lincoln at Gettysburg

Ronald C. White, Lincoln’s Greatest Speech

VI: Blood, Toil, Tears, and Sweat: Churchill’s Finest Hour
(April 7, 14, 21)

John Lukacs, Churchill: Visionary, Statesman, Historian

"Wars Come Very Suddenly," 7 February 1934, pp. 105-107

"Germany Is Arming," 8 March 1934, pp. 107-108

"A Corridor of Deepening and Darkening Danger," 31 May 1935, pp. 111-114

Winston Churchill, "Germany Fears No One," March 1936, pp. 124-128

"Austria Annexed," 14 March 1938, pp. 159-163

"A Total and Unmitigated Defeat," 5 October 1938, pp. 171-182

"The Lights Are Going Out," 16 October 1938, pp. 182-185

"A Hush Over Europe," 8 August 1939, pp. 191-194

"War," 3 September 1939, pp. 197-198

"Blood, Toil, Tears, and Sweat," 13 May 1940, pp. 204-206

"Wars Are Not Won by Evacuations," 4 June 1940, pp. 210-218

"This Was Their Finest Hour," 18 June 1940, pp. 219-229


"Give Us the Tools," 9 February 1941, pp. 259-262

"Address to a Joint Session of Congress," 26 December 1941, pp. 315-323

"President Roosevelt," 17 April 1945, pp. 382-386

"Victory in Europe," 8 May 1945, pp. 387-390

"This Is Your Victory," 8 May 1945, pp. 390-391
--------------, "Government of the People, by the People, for the People,"
16 August 1945, p. 409

--------------, "An Iron Curtain Has Descended," 5 March 1946, pp. 413-424