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%), two short papers on topics to be assigned (20%), and a major research paper on a topic to be agreed (30%).
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 first short paper assignment will be distributed in class on January 26th; the paper will be due at the beginning of class on February 9th. The second paper topic will be distributed on March 16th, and will be due at the beginning of class on March 23rd. 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 February 23rd. The paper is due no later than 5:00pm on Monday, April 11th. As with the short paper assignments, 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*

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*
Leo Strauss, *The City and Man*

*I. Reason and Rhetoric in Historical Context: Thucydides’ History*

(January 12, 19)

Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*
Book I: chapters 1-146, pp. 1-85
Book II: chapters 34-65, pp. 107-127
Book III: chapters 30-49, pp. 174-185; 52-68, pp. 186-197; 77-85, pp. 201-207
Book IV: chapters 66-135, pp. 265-307
Book V: chapters 84-116, pp. 364-372
Book VI: chapters 1-105, pp. 375-440
Book VII: chapters 60-87, pp. 479-499
Book VIII: chapter 1, pp. 503-504

Recommended:
Leo Strauss, *The City and Man*
Clifford Orwin, *The Humanity of Thucydides*

**II. Rhetoric, Reason, and Human Nature**
(January 26, February 2)

Aristotle, *The Art of Rhetoric*

Book I: chapters 1–10, pp. 3–115
Book II: chapters 1–21, pp. 169–289
Book III: chapters 1; 13–19, pp. 345–351, 425–471


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

**III. Our Lives, Our Fortunes and Our Sacred Honor:**
*The Declaration of Independence*
(February 9)

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**  
(Feb. 16, 23; Mar. 2)

The Constitution

Clinton Rossiter, ed., *The Federalist Papers*


**V. The Better Angels of Our Nature: Abraham Lincoln and the War for the Union**  
(Mar. 16, 23, 30)

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*)

----------------------, “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 6, 13, 20)

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

“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