



# Rhetoric Thesis

Yearlong (2020-2021)



## ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:

Grades: 10th-12th grade

**Class Dates:** September 8–May 28

**Class Times:** M/W 9:30 a.m. ET

**Instructor:** Benjamin Whittington

**E-mail:** BTWhittington@icloud.com

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## SCHEDULE

### CLASS SESSIONS DATES:

Classes will take place on M/W 9:30 a.m. ET for 32 weeks and 63 classes. Please see <https://scholéacademy.com/academic-calendar/> for specific dates and school holidays.

*Please note the above dates and times are the anticipated class sessions for this course. However, all dates are subject to change as the instructor's circumstances might dictate (e.g. illness, family emergency). Any classes canceled by the instructor will be made up at an alternate time designated by the instructor.*

### COURSE MAP:

#### QUARTER 1: Introduction

1. Explore general topics and specific issues
2. Identify an outside expert
3. Create Proposal/Outline

#### QUARTER 2: First Draft

1. Write First Draft of Thesis

#### QUARTER 3: Revision

1. Revise

#### QUARTER 4 - Speech

1. Turn Thesis into Speech
2. Present the Thesis!

## OFFICE HOURS:

Please email/text to schedule a time to meet. I am generally open the following times (these are in central time):

Tuesday: 12-5pm

Thursday: 9-12am

Saturday: 9-12am

I can make time outside of these hours if you require. I do work some other jobs during these hours so just give me at least a day notice that you wish to meet.

## Textbook Selection

### **COURSE TEXTS:** (PRICE ESTIMATE: 26\$-78\$) (\* BOOKS ARE OPTIONAL)

1. Rhetoric Alive! Senior Thesis: Student Workbook Late Summer 2018 Release
2. Writing with Clarity & Style: 2nd Edition. ISBN-13: 978-1138560093; ISBN-10: 113856009X
3. Office of Assertion: An Art of Rhetoric for the Academic Essay: ISBN-13: 978-1932236453; ISBN-10: 1932236457
4. Antonin Scalia, Christopher Scalia, & Ed Whelan. *Scalia Speaks: Reflections on Law, Faith, and a Life Well Lived*. New York: Crown Forum. 9780525573326

#### Optional, Supplementary Text:

1. MLA Handbook, 8th Ed. ISBN-13: 978-1603292627; ISBN-10: 1603292624\*
2. Turabian Handbook, 9th edition. 022643057X/ 978-0226430577\*
3. APA Handbook, 7th edition. 433832739/978-1433832734\*

\* Different subjects require different citation methods. Depending on what topic the students individually chooses, I will show them the appropriate citation methods. Once the student decides on a particular method, I will recommend they purchase that book, however it is not required.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

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Rhetoric Thesis prepares students to meet the challenges of college-level writing in the liberal arts tradition. The thesis paper is the culmination of classical students' high school scholarship, as it provides an opportunity for them to showcase not only their content knowledge but also their ability to engage persuasively in "the Great Conversation." The thesis process—from the initial stage of finding a topic to the final day of presentation—is a jungle within which many students quickly find themselves lost. This course is a step-by-step guide that leads students through the process of writing a thesis paper, helping them avoid the typical false starts and dead ends of the journey. The course instructor walks alongside students as they engage in the challenging task of preparing and presenting a thoughtful, original response to an issue. Grounded in classical rhetorical theory, this course guides students through the five canons of rhetoric, piece by piece, as they write the six sections of their oration. Students will ultimately become thinkers who can combine their wit, wisdom, eloquence, reason, and ethics for future writing endeavors.

## **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS: EXECUTIVE FUNCTION SKILLS**

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This course is suitable for high school students, and particularly (although not exclusively) for 12th graders. To be successful in this course, you will need to have a few pre-requisite skills. Make sure each of these descriptions is true of you. If you aren't sure, let's talk, and I can help make sure the course will be a good fit.

- Reads at or above a tenth-grade level.
- Composes essays with confidence
- Successfully completed Rhetoric I through Scholé Academy or has comparable experience in classical rhetoric
- Listens, take notes, and is willing to engage in group discussions (extroversion not required!)
- Capable of guided, independent reading and research
- Types sufficiently well to transcribe a lengthy essay without frustration
- Possesses basic computer skills—browsing, accessing assignments, scanning, e-mailing, and managing files
- Has the intellectual and spiritual maturity to entertain opinions that are contrary to his or her own established beliefs

## **TECHNOLOGY**

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All course materials can be accessed via our learning management system Schoology ([www.schoology.com](http://www.schoology.com)). The live virtual classroom will be the first link provided in the list of course materials. This will open a video conferencing application called Zoom. Students will receive an access code to the Schoology course in a separate e-mail from the teacher prior to the start of the course. Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting the Technology in the Classroom section of the Student Parent Handbook. Students will submit documents by scanning and uploading them to their personal computer and uploading them to the course assignment page.

## **STUDENT EVALUATION: ASSIGNMENTS, TYPES & WEIGHTS**

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**900-1000=A**

**800-899=B**

**700-799=C**

**600-699=D**

**599 and below=F**

## **STUDENT EVALUATION: ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

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Students will often take assessment tests and/or quizzes privately at home. Students are on their honor to abide by [Scholé Academy's Learning Philosophy](#) which assumes the personal cultivation of Student-Virtues described in the Student-Parent Handbook.

Additionally, plagiarism is a serious and punishable offense. Proper citation of all sources is essential to the academic endeavor. Remember to cite any source if the information is not common knowledge or is an opinion obtained through any source. A plagiarized assignment will result in a failing grade. Students should consult their chosen style manual (see Student Expectations above) for specific direction on obtaining, quoting and paraphrasing sources.

## **THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM:**

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We will be using the free online “virtual classroom” software provided by Zoom, one of the leading companies that provides such software. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio, text chat and an interactive whiteboard in which texts, diagrams, video and other media can be displayed and analyzed. We will provide students with a link (via email) that will enable students to join the virtual classroom.

Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting the [Technology in the Classroom](#) section of the Student Parent Handbook.

Students will submit documents by scanning and uploading them to their personal computer, then attaching those files as .pdfs to an email. They will submit their work to the Schoology assignment page (access granted after enrollment is secured).

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### **ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:**

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**Ben Whittington** received his B.S. in Religion and a M.A. in Philosophy from Liberty University, and is currently finishing his Ph.D. in Philosophy at the University of Birmingham (U.K.). While at LU, he served as the Coordinator for the Center for Apologetics under Joshua Chatraw. During that time, he published his first work as a contributing author in Sean McDowell's ""New Evidence That Demands a Verdict"" (2017). In addition to spending the past two years as a Latin/Omnibus Teacher at an ACCS school, he has spent the past several years as an Adjunct Professor teaching Philosophy courses (residentially and online) at the College of DuPage, Ivy Tech Community College, and Volunteer State Community College.

Ben and his wife Emily reside in the Nashville area, and are active in the Church of the City. He has two little girls: Hadassah (3) and Eila (1). They love TV shows such as The Office and Friends, but their real TV love is Survivor. Ben's favorite books are Lord of the Rings and Lewis's Space Trilogy.