Modern Rhetorical Theory

This course provides an overview of modern rhetorical theory. We will begin with the single greatest figure of rhetoric in the modern era: Kenneth Burke. From there, we will cover several major figures and schools of thought in the twentieth century and beyond. The contemporary themes we will address include power, politics, democracy, science, religion, art, media, and popular culture. Students will learn how to apply the theories learned in class to everyday life. The aim of the course to help students become more critically aware of the complexities of our social and symbolic universe.