



ERASMUS+ INCOMING STUDENTS COURSE CATALOGUE

Department of Italian Language and Literature

#

General information		
Course instructor	Luca Malatesti, Ph.D.	
Name of the course	Retorica	
Study programme	Undergraduate study programme in Italian Language and Literature	
Status of the course	Elective	
Year of study	2 nd	
ECTS credits and manner of instruction	ECTS credits	3
	Number of class hours (Lectures + Exercises + Seminars)	15+0+15

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

1.1. Course objectives

Students should gain insights into the main strategies of rhetorical writing. Moreover, they should develop the abilities that will enable them to defend controversial theses in written form by using rhetorical techniques which will allow them to take into account the interests of a larger public and the fundamental principles of logic. The course aims to familiarize students with the starting points for theoretical questions concerning the relation between rhetoric and logic, with particular focus on their advantages and limitations, as well as their application in writing.

1.2. Course enrolment requirements and entry competences required for the course

The knowledge of the Italian language.

1.3. Expected course learning outcomes

Upon completing the course and fulfilling their responsibilities, students will be able to:

- identify the language style of texts that they are expected to read,
- develop the skills of using basic rhetorical devices (according to the classification of Mortara Garavelli 1989),
- express themselves creatively in writing using the principles of persuasive writing (according to Santambrogio 2006),

- identify and evaluate several theories about the relation between persuasive rhetoric and logical argumentation (according to Perelman 1981 and Preti 1968) within a discussion on the relationship between literary and scientific-philosophical culture.

1.4. Course content

1. Rhetorical devices: their classification and role in the use of persuasive discourse.
2. The role of audience.
3. The fundamentals of informal logic, its role and the principles of argumentation.
4. A brief history of the philosophical understandings of rhetoric.
5. The philosophical interpretations of rhetoric (Preti, Perelman) and its relations with logic.
6. Writing persuasive texts.
7. Text macrostructure: introduction, the clarification of the basic thesis, different roles of different parts of persuasive texts.
8. Text microstructure: paragraph structure, basic thesis, the clarification of the basic thesis, links with the following paragraph. Critical principles of academic writing, citations, footnotes and bibliography.

1.5. Manner of instruction

- ✓ Lectures
- ✓ Seminars and workshops
- ✓ Individual assignments