

AAS/COJO
4160/5160 and
WMST 4500
African American
Rhetoric in F 2020

This course fulfills University
& A&S College
Requirements: "Com 3," "D,"
and "WC" designations.

Prof: Dr. Patton

What is Rhetoric: It's something we use every day to persuade one another. Rhetoric originates from the time of ancient Africa and ancient Greece. Rhetoric is the study and use of written, spoken and visual language. Rhetoric investigates how language is used to organize and maintain social groups, construct meanings and identities, coordinate behavior, mediate power, produce change, and create knowledge. Rhetoric analyzes things like art and graffiti, architecture, media, music lyrics, photography, poetry, protests, social justice movements, and speeches.



Black Lives Matter protests swept the world this summer after the murder of George Floyd by a white police officer in Minneapolis. But what does this mean? To understand where we are today we must look to the past. Travel from Ancient Africa to present day U.S. by studying rhetoric through the eyes and experiences of Black people. Travel through U. S. enslaved history and see how voices so powerful led to a monumental Civil Rights Movement, and end in the present with the understanding of how Black people in the U.S. set the stage for a vision of change through the power of speech.

From Sojourner Truth to Dred Scott. From Rosa Parks to Malcolm X. From Django Unchained to Black Lives Matter. This class will challenge and teach you about Black American experiences in new and exciting ways that expand your thinking and worldview. Explore how African American Rhetoric challenges inequities in the U.S. and strives for racial equality and justice for all People of Color.