

ENC 3021

06.22.21

- Praxis – taking theory and putting it into practice, acknowledging the link between theory and practice.
- Rhetoric involves all forms of discourse

Bitzer:

- Rhetoric is situational
- Pg.4: In short, rhetoric is a mode of altering reality, not by direct application of energy to objects, but by the creation of discourse which changes reality through the mediation of thought and action.
- In the best of all possible worlds, there would be communication perhaps, but no rhetoric since exigences would not arise: in exigence there arises a need for change
- Rhetoric: (7 words or less): **Discourse that emerges from exigency** “Let us regard rhetorical situation as a natural context of persons, events, objects, relations, and an exigence which strongly invites utterance; this invited utterance participates naturally in the situation, is in many instances necessary to the completion of situational activity, and by means of its participation with situation obtains its meaning and its rhetorical character.”
- Constrain: limitations on the actions of the audience or limits to how much they are or are not persuaded.

Anzaldua:

- Rhetoric: (7 words or less) **Divisive discussion which influences positive change**
- There has to be some middle ground or some space where we can have healthy discourse
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Constrain: limitations on the actions of the audience or limits to how much they are or are not persuaded.

Definitions of Rhetoric:

- Lloyd Bitzer: “Rhetoric is a mode of altering reality, not by the direct application of energy to objects, but by the creation of discourse which changes reality through the mediation of thought and action.
 1. How/do these definitions apply? Aragorn is altering reality because he is attempting to persuade his audience to make a positive change.
 2. What aspects of the clip and speech do they seem to emphasize?
 3. Why might that matter?
 4. Provide evidence based on the clip.

- Gloria Anzaldua: Borderlands rhetoric and “la facultad” (ability/gift):
“individuals...exposed to multiple social worlds, as defined by cultures, languages, social classes, sexualities, nation states, and colonization, develop the agility to navigate and challenge monocultural and monolingual conceptions of reality.”

06.23.21

Sophistic Rhetoric

A. History:

- Increase in trade = more diverse population
- Move from Oligarchy to Monarchy/Democracy → this stabilizes the government because there is only one person in charge with democracy coming through with the masses shifting where they want politics to go
- With democracy there comes a need for written law and with that an expansion of literacy practices.
- Athens becomes a cultural center, people are no longer just trying to figure out how to survive but have the room to grow intellectually.

B. Gorgias

- Key ideas:
 - Language is multifaceted, descriptive language
 - Human knowledge is contingent = crowds are persuaded and opinions move in and out of the forefront. *As I am giving this speech I have the potential to persuade my audience to have a belief they may not have had beforehand.*
 - He made his style of speech more ornate to gather attention and persuade.
- Influence on Rhetoric:
 - He uses the power of language to persuade his readers.
- Theory and Practice:
 - Specialized in ceremonial oratory = he was so famous for this kind of speaking because he spoke with an irregular cadence or rhythm, used alliteration and rhyme almost to the point where it sounds silly but is pleasing to the ear.
 - He uses the power of language to influence the reader by proving that Helen is free of blame.

C. Aphasia

- Key ideas:
 - Socratic Method
 - Athens is a state of mind and Plato intended to criticize the mindless patriotism of the Athenians of his day, underscoring the dangers of listening to such rhetoric by putting the speech in the mouth of the most (professionally) seductive of the founders of Athenian oratory, Aspasia,
- Influence on Rhetoric:

- Socratic Method
- Highly regarded in Athens by influential men
- In Plato poking fun at Aspasia it was because of her influence and prominence in Athenian society
- She was the ghostwriter to many speeches she wasn't even credited for.
- Theory and Practice
 - Instituted the opposing view in her excerpt about wanting the best wife/ husband

Encomium of Helen and Menexenus

- Rhetorical situation?
 - Gorgias: Bitzer situational argument by applying rhetoric to Helen's specific situation and creating an opposing view to her blame.
 - Aspasia:
- Who is the audience?
 - Aspasia:
 - Gorgias:
- Exigence? Constraints?
 - Aspasia: Missing out on credits on her work and not having living memory
 - Gorgias:
- Borderlands?
 - Aspasia: She takes advantage of this space that she's not entirely accepted in as a woman and as an immigrant yet she hold such an influence in Athenian society.
 - Gorgias: moral borderlands in which what is blamable can be opposed and persuaded otherwise.

06.24.21

1. talk about bio details for Plato

- Plato believes that absolute and transcendent truths are accessible to humans because they knew it before birth when their souls were divine.
- "Finding truth now, when we exist in the flesh, is difficult, however, because it requires remembering what has been covered over in our minds by the experience of carnality and temporality." This is a nod to the senses and being seduced by the physical.
- Plato occasionally admitted women into his Academy
- Coined the term Rhetoric.
- Sophistic discourse is portrayed by Plato as synthetic, emotional, and rhetorical in a pejorative sense.
- Isocrates was more for political leaders whereas Plato was more philosophical
- Plato was mentored by Socrates.

- Plato started the Academy and occasionally allowed women.
- The Gorgias:
 - Plato is the main character
 - This was written soon after Socrates was executed, therefore Plato comes out intensely against what he considers bad which is the Sophists
 - The dialogue reflects that in which Socrates pushes against all of the other characters who use rhetoric and language for anything but truth, i.e political gain, power, persuasion.

2. what is happening so far in Phaedrus

- Transcendent knowledge is contradicted in this line, “I accept what is generally believed,”
- Plato’s idea of love is depressing, “A lover wants someone who they can dominate and manipulate into doing their bidding or being the boy they would find useful both in body and spirit”

3. what questions do you have about the reading.

- What is Plato trying to do through this discussion with Phaedrus, is it another critique on the Sophistic Rhetoric or what?

200-206 ends at synopsis of Rhetoric

Primary text 210 → all of book one and stop at book 2

224 → line 1393 roman numeral 30 : book 2 chapter 20 go until roman numeral 23

06.28.21

Aristotle

- Biography:
 - Had to abandon Athens due to political reasons
 - First person to teach Rhetoric at Plato’s Academy developed his curriculum to compete with Socrates.
 - Aristotle is Plato’s student.
 - He didn’t create speeches to be spoken in public but was more so a teacher, it was rumored that he had a speech impediment.
 - He taught ethics, zoology, as well as ethics which may have influences his ideas that rhetoric transcends into every subject.