STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS

The Field XIII candidacy exam in Rhetoric envisions the field to include the study of rhetoric in the classical and other historical periods, along with the study of rhetoric in contemporary contexts and in an age of new media. Successful candidates will demonstrate the ability to describe accurately, synthesize, and critique work ranging from Plato to present-day scholarship and theory. Successful candidates will write coherent essays that respond directly to questions posed, argue a point, place readings in dialog with one another, and demonstrate a deep understanding of rhetorical issues.

General Overviews


History of Rhetoric


Bizzell, Patricia, and Bruce Herzberg. The Rhetorical Tradition: Readings from Classical Times to the Present, 2nd ed. The following selections only:

- General Introduction
- Classical
- Dissoi Logoi
- Isocrates, Against the Sophists
- Plato, Gorgias & Phaedrus
- Aristotle, from Rhetoric
- Cicero, from De Oratore
- Quintilian, from Institutes of Oratory
- Medieval
- Augustine, On Christian Doctrine, Book IV
- Robert of Basevorn, from The Form of Preaching
- Christine de Pizan, from The Book of the City of Ladies & The Treasure of the City of Ladies
- Renaissance
- Desiderius Erasmus, from Copia: Foundations of the Abundant Style
Thomas Wilson, from *The Arte of Rhetorique*
Margaret Fell, *Women’s Speaking Justified, Proved, and Allowed by the Scriptures*
Enlightenment
Mary Astell, from *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies, Part II*
Giambattista Vico, from *On the Study Methods of Our Time*
George Campbell, from *The Philosophy of Rhetoric*
19th Century
Richard Whately, from *Elements of Rhetoric*
Frederick Douglas, from *Narrative, Bondage and Freedom & Life and Times*
Frances Willard, from *Women in the Pulpit & Women and Temperance*
Alexander Bain, from *English Composition and Rhetoric*
Friedrich Nietzsche, *On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense*
Modern & Postmodern
Mikhail Bakhtin, from *The Problem of Speech Genres*
I.A. Richards, from *The Philosophy of Rhetoric*
Richard Weaver, *Language is Sermonic*
Michel Foucault, from *The Archaeology of Knowledge*
Wayne Booth, from *Modern Dogma and the Rhetoric of Assent*
Henry Louis Gates Jr, from *Signifying Monkey, Language of Signifying & Orders of Meaning*
Gloria Anzaldua, from *Borderlands/La Frontera*


**Digital Rhetoric**


Rhetorical Situation


