

CFP: Literature, Rhetoric, and Values

DEADLINE EXTENDED: Proposals due by Friday 1 October 2010

Conference 3-5 June 2011

Plenary: Barry Brummett (U of Texas at Austin) and Christopher Hitchens (The New School)

Keynote Speakers: Carolyn R. Miller (North Carolina State) and James Phelan (Ohio State)

Literature (n.): literary work or production; the realm of letters.

Rhetoric (n.): the study and practice of using symbols to persuade or influence.

Value (n.): the quality of a thing considered in respect of its power and validity for a specified purpose or effect.

This three-day conference will investigate the intersections of **literature** and **rhetoric** with **values**.

“**Value**” is never singular. Whether used to refer to a quality or a conviction, the term situates its referent in relation to a spectrum of other qualities and convictions called by the same name. **Values** emerge in dialogue with and in contrast to each other. Their holders articulate them in relation to a range of other beliefs encountered and imagined. To declare a **value** is to invite argument and to incite discussion. How do **literature** and **rhetoric** express **values**, and to what end(s)? How do they give **values** a form?

“**Literature, Rhetoric, and Values**” will feature a plenary discussion between Sapp Professor of Communication (U of Texas at Austin) Dr. Barry Brummett (*The Rhetoric of Popular Culture, Techniques of Close Reading, Uncovering Hidden Rhetorics*) and public intellectual Christopher Hitchens (teacher at The New School; regular contributor to *Atlantic Monthly, Vanity Fair*; author of *Hitch-22: A Memoir, God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything* and *Unacknowledged Legislation: Writers in the Public Sphere*), as well as keynote addresses by Carolyn R. Miller, SAS Institute Distinguished Professor of **Rhetoric** and Technical Communication, North Carolina State University (and editor of *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*), and James Phelan, Humanities Distinguished Professor, Ohio State University (*Narrative as Rhetoric, Experiencing Fiction*).

The conference aims to foster productive interdisciplinary exchanges on the nexus of **values** with **literature** and **rhetoric**, broadly conceived. Conference organizers will accept 300-word proposals on topics that include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- **literature, rhetoric**, disinterestedness
- anatomies of **value**: embodiment in **literature** and **rhetoric**
- **literature, rhetoric**, and “the good life”
- **literature, rhetoric**, and “the digital life”
- poetic justice: **literature, rhetoric**, and law
- popular **literature**, popular **rhetoric**, popular **values**?
- “global” **literature** and “globalized” **values**



Image: Donck, "The Constitution in Peril", nd.
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/joshuatree/1508177319/>

DEADLINE EXTENDED: Send proposals for panels or individual papers by **1 October 2010** to the “Literature, Rhetoric, and Values” Conference Committee, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. West, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1, or email them to lr2011@uwaterloo.ca. Inquiries about the conference may be sent to Shelley Hulan (shulan@artsservices.uwaterloo.ca).

All papers (other than keynote addresses) will be given in 1-1.5 hour sessions, but in order to maximize discussion, our moderators will rigidly enforce a 15-minute speaking limit per presenter.