

**GLOSSARY OF COMMON TERMS
FOUND IN THE DISCIPLINE OF COMPOSITION**

How to Use the Glossary

Defining Structure

Word [main thinkers] 1. The Definition of the Word (source)* 2. The Secondary Definition of the Word (source - definitions are usually accessible alphabetically in the dictionary or glossary) (see *other words*)

Contributors: (if applicable - provides philosophers/educators/rhetoricians whose work is concerned or centers on with the word defined)

Discussion: (if applicable - provides a further description of the word defined or provides relevant information)

Important Works: (if applicable - provides relevant readings with respect to the word defined)

* Punctuation is not normally used at the end of a definition, because most definitions are fragments. Definitions are usually separated by letters and spaces

Acculturation [Cultural Studies] A social situation where the minority accepts dominant culture but still experiences segregation and/or discrimination (Merriam-Webster)

Act [Kenneth Burke] a word describing what took place in thought or deed or action (see *Pentad*)

African-American Rhetoric or Black Rhetorics 1. School of rhetorical thought concerned with rhetorical techniques and messages originating from African-American language use and African-American communities/cultures

Contributors: Keith Gilyard, Geneva Smitherman, Bell Hooks, Henry Louis Gates

Discussion: African-American Rhetoric examines "the history of the oral and written languages of African-Americans. Many of the sermons, speeches, autobiographies, poems, novels, plays, songs, and polemics (as well as the theoretical discourse) of African-Americans serve as complex responses to the oppression they experienced as slaves and as second-class citizens of the United States." (Enos)

Important Works:

Let's Flip the Script by Keith Gilyard

Race, Rhetoric and Composition by Keith Gilyard

Discourse and Discrimination by Geneva Smitherman

Black Talk by Geneva Smitherman

Talkin and Testifyin by Geneva Smitherman

The Signifying Monkey by Henry Louis Gates

Agent [Kenneth Burke] Describes who performed or perpetrated the act (see *Pentad*)

Agency [Kenneth Burke] Means by which the act was accomplished (see *Pentad*)

American Indian Rhetoric Studies the work and language of American Indians, from the oral traditions of tribal culture to the modern mainstream contributions of Native Americans (Enos)

Discussion: Much of the detail or emphasis placed on American Indian Rhetoric focuses on cultural studies and the different rhetoric of each tribe (existing and non-existing). Some of this rhetoric focuses on narrative approaches to conveying, constructing or delivering songs or stories; additionally, this rhetoric focuses on the rhetorical qualities of myths and tales. Regardless, much of the work in rhetoric also focuses on cultural distinctiveness, which permeates style, diction and delivery of rhetoric by American Indians.

Appeals [Aristotle] Methods for persuading an audience. (See *classical rhetoric, ethos, pathos and logos*).

A Priori 1. Characterizing the kind of reasoning deducing consequences from definitions or principles regarded as self-evident; deductive; designating that which can be known by reason alone and not through experience
2. Presumptive; presumptively; without examination

Arabic Rhetoric Studies the translation of Greek philosophical texts into Arabic as well as the commentaries written by medieval Muslim philosophers and how this constitutes a considerable contribution to the rhetorical and philosophical tradition in the west (Enos)

Contributors: Al-Farabi, Avicenna, Averroes

Important Texts:

Arabic Poetics in the Golden Age by Vicente Cantarino

The Poetics of Alfarabi and Avicenna by Selim Kemal

Archetype The original pattern of which all things of the same species are representations or copies; original ideas, model or type (Merriam-Webster)

Artifact 1. A product of human workmanship 2. A sample or representation of a community or culture (Merriam-Webster) 3. A sample of writing or other form of discourse.

Assimilation [Cultural Studies] 1. A social situation where the dominant culture accepts the minority 2. A situation where minorities are forced into the dominant culture

Autonomous 1. Independent in government; self-governing; without outside control 2. Existing independently (Merriam-Webster)

Autonomy 1. A self-governing state 2. Quality or state of being autonomous. (Merriam-Webster)

Axiology 1. The philosophical study of goodness, or value, in the widest sense of these terms. Its significance lies (1) in the considerable expansion that it has given to the meaning of the term value and (2) in the unification that it has provided for the study of a variety of questions--economic, moral, aesthetic, and even logical--that had often been considered in relative isolation. (www.eb.com)
Discussion: "For those who study axiology, it has become traditional to distinguish between instrumental (or means) values and ultimate values (or ends or intrinsic) values. The rhetorical perspective of what makes writing good suggests that good writing is an instrumental rather than intrinsic value in that it produces an effect on readers, effects that are valued by the writer." (Enos)

Axiom 1. A statement of self-evident truth; thus, the statement that the whole is greater than any of its parts is an axiom 2. An established principle that is universally received/accepted (Merriam-Webster)

Axiomatic Of, pertaining to, or having the nature of an axiom; self-evident (Merriam-Webster)

Backing [Stephen Toulmin] evidence or support in a Toulminian argument

Basic Writing Studies [Mina Shaughnessy] 1. Field in composition studies focusing on the practice, theory, and pedagogy of teaching developmental or remedial writing and reading.

Contributors: Mina Shaughnessy, David Bartholomae, Andrea Lunsford, Lynn Quitman Troyka, Mike Rose, Patricia Sullivan, Theresa Enos, Walter Ong, Glynda Hull, Laura Gray-Rosendale, Patricia Bizzell, Anthony Petrosky, Joseph Harris, Min-Zhan Lu, Pamela Gay, Bruce Horner, Mariolina Salvatori Patrick Hartwell

Important Works:

A Sourcebook for Basic Writing Teachers Edited by Theresa Enos

Errors and Expectations by Mina Shaughnessy

Rethinking Basic Writing by Laura Gray-Rosendale

Facts, Artifacts and Counterfacts by David Bartholomae and Anthony

Petrosky

Representing the "Other" by Bruce Horner and Min-Zhan Lu

The Journal of Basic Writing (Journal)

Binary Opposition When two opposite notions are argued; in a state of divergence between two natural or artificial concepts, notions, etc.

Chinese Rhetoric Examines the effective writing strategies and thought of Chinese thinkers as it began almost five millennia ago. (Enos)

Contributors: Shu Jing, Confucius, Lun Yu, Liu Yie, Wen Ze

Discussion: Not much has been written in terms of Chinese Rhetoric in America, but most of this rhetoric seems to follow adherence to the study of political and social climates observed in China throughout the centuries.

Important Works:

Rethinking Classical Chinese Rhetoric by Yameng Liu

Wen Xin Diao Long: An Early Chinese Rhetoric of Written Discourse by Heping Zhao

Claim [Stephen Toulmin] 1. Thesis statement or proposition 2. Statement made to contend in an argument with two sides (for or against)

Classical Rhetoric The beginnings of the discipline of rhetoric as they are discovered through the writings of the Greek and Roman Civilization

Contributors: Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Quintilian, Cicero, Isocrates, Augustine, Edward Corbett, Robert Connors, Hugh Blair

Discussion: Classical Rhetoric is best known for its examination of the rhetoric of the Greeks and Romans, specifically from the works of the contributors from the list above. Classical Rhetoric seeks to explain elements of rhetoric concerning: Topics, Syllogisms, Enthymemes, Appeals, Fallacies, Types of Reasoning, Logic, Invention, Style, Schemes, Tropes, Imitation, etc.

Important Works:

Classical Rhetoric for the Modern Student by Edward Corbett and Robert Connors
A Handbook of Rhetorical Terms by Richard Lanham

Code 1. Any system of signals used for sending messages (Crystal) 2. A language, or variety of languages (Crystal)

Codify 1. To reduce to a code, as laws; to systematize; classify (Merriam-Webster) 2. To provide a systematic account of a language (especially of its grammar and vocabulary).

Codification (see Codify)

Cognition [Cognitive Psychology, Psychology] 1. Act or faculty of knowing 2. The process of knowing; knowledge or the capacity for it; also, a product of this process, as a perception or notion 3. Relating to cognitive psychology.

Cognitivism or Cognitive Rhetoric 1. Field in composition studies focusing on cognitive processes at work in writing, reading and learning development. 2. Of or relating to cognition or cognitive psychology.

Contributors: Jean Piaget, Lev Vygotsky, Linda Flowers, John Hayes, Andrea Lunsford, Patricia Bizzell, Janet Emig, Ann Berthoff, Walter Ong, Janice Hays, William Perry

Discussion: "Cognitive Rhetoric describes writing as a performative act, as a way of entering into rhetorical situations and discourse communities, often characterized by unique, unstable rules and expectations. The central question driving cognitive rhetoric is, How do rhetors, as goal-directed thinkers and as complex social beings, construct meaning and communicate with others within an immense and little-understood social context?" (Enos)

Important Works:

Thought and Language by Lev Vygotsky
"Cognition, Convention, and Certainty: What we Need to Know about Writing" by Patricia Bizzell
"A Cognitive Process Theory of Writing" by Linda Flower and John Hayes
"Rhetoric and Ideology in the Writing Classroom" by James Berlin

Colonialism [Cultural Studies] pertaining to the idea that other cultures or communities may be assimilated by the dominant culture

Computers and Composition Field in composition studies focusing on the integration of technology (specifically computers) and writing

Contributors: Cynthia Selfe, Gail Hawisher, Sibylle Gruber, Dennis Baron

Important Works:

Passions, Pedagogies and 21st Century Technologies Edited by Gail Hawisher and Cynthia Selfe
Weaving a Virtual Web Edited by Sibylle Gruber
Computers and Composition (Journal)

Computers and Writing (see Computers and Composition)

Conclusive Belonging to a close or termination; specifically, putting an end to debate or question; decisive; final (Merriam-Webster)

Context The part of a discourse in which a word or passage occurs and which helps to explain the meaning of the word or passage (Merriam Webster)

Contextualize or Contextualization 1. To derive or deduce from the context of an idea or written work 2. To investigate the author, audience and purpose of a written or verbal work

Contact Zone [Mary Louise Pratt] 1. A place where the dominant discourse is presented to minority groups 2. A space where students encounter a description or representation of their own culture in either the classroom setting or in a piece of discourse 3. A space where uneven cultural representations are found

Discussion: A further discussion from Pratt's "Arts of Contact Zones." (Profession 91. New York: MLA, 1991. 33-40), Pratt states, "I use this term to refer to social spaces where cultures meet, clash, and grapple with each other, often in highly asymmetrical relations of power, such as colonialism, slavery, or their aftermaths as they are lived out in many parts of the world today" (34).

Contact Zone Pedagogy or Contact Zone Studies [Mary Louise Pratt] 1. Field in composition studies and rhetoric focusing on contact zones and their contributions to multicultural learning 2. Focusing on the interaction of minorities with the dominant culture 3. Focusing on dominant cultures interaction with minority instructors and students

Contributors: Richard Miller, Xin Liu Gale, Patricia Bizzell

Counterculture Group with behavior contrary to the dominant culture

Cultural Studies 1. Broad field of inquire examining culture (culture in terms of knowledge, art, belief, morals, law, customs, writing practices, reading practices, other capabilities and habits acquired by a member of society) (Sardar and Van Loon) 2. The interdisciplinary examination of cultural texts and their effects in forming consciousness within economic and political contexts (Enos)

Cyberpunk [Postmodernism] 1. Counterculture, which unifies extreme leftist, anti-authoritarian, and rebellious views with technology 2. A movement that advocates using technology or the merger of technology and humanity to fulfill ones own desires

Discussion: Cyberpunks are usually associated with computers hackers, or those who use technology to subvert mainstream ideals and culture. Author Jim Powell states that Cyberpunks began as a hybrid of 80s counterculture, cybertechnology and anarchy (from *Postmodernism for Beginners* by Jim Powell). The term cyberpunk is often seen and referred to in Postmodern writings, and Computers and Composition literature.

Important Works:

Necromancer by William Gibson

Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep by Phillip Dick

Cyberspace Refers to the virtual world of the Internet or World Wide Web

Cyborg [Postmodernism] 1. The merger of human components (e.g. the brain, the body, thought) with technology 2. A movement that fosters merger of technology and human beings

Data [Stephen Toulmin] Empirical evidence or facts in a Toulminian argument

Deconstruction [Jacques Derrida] 1. The act of naming the processes within language that produce a fundamental "undecidability" of meaning, an undecidability that often undermines the intention of the speaker or writer (Palmer) 2. The name of the method of reading texts, which reveals undecidability [and the nature of ambiguous qualities of a text] (Palmer)

Deduction Reasoning from the general to the particular, or from the universal to the individual

Determinism The metaphysical view that necessity rules and that freedom is an illusion. (Palmer)

Developmental Writing (see *Basic Writing*)

Diachronic An analysis, which concentrates on the historical development of the object of analysis

Dialectic [Plato, Marx, Hegel] A belief that history progresses by resolving the contradictions between the opposing forces that make up any historical period (theses and antitheses) through revolutionary action (a synthesis) (Palmer) 2. A scientific methodology in which socio-historical facts are analyzed in terms of the relationships of opposition to and dependency upon each other (Palmer) 3. A process of seeking truth through questioning (Covino/Jolliffe) 4. A cooperative exchange between two speakers, beginning with a definition of terms and ending with a synthesis that approaches philosophic, universal understanding (Covino/Jolliffe)

Dialogic or Polyphonic [Mikhail Bakhtin] a discourse form that allows the characters of the discourse to speak in their own voices, as it were (Cuddon).

Discussion: "In Bakhtin's words, they are liberated to speak 'a plurality of independent and unmerged voices ...' which are not subject to the authoritative control of the author" (Cuddon)

Différance [Jacques Derrida] Designates the dual fact that (a) meaning is derived from differences, not sameness, and (b) meaning is never fully present but is always deferred, postponed (Palmer)

Discourse 1. Act, power, or faculty of thinking consecutively and logically; reasoning power 2. Coherent reflection or thought 3. Formal or orderly communication of thought in speech or writing (Merriam-Webster)

Discussion: "A discourse consists of culturally or socially produced groups of ideas containing texts (which contain signs and codes) and representations (which describe power in relation to Others)" (Sardar and Van Loon)

Discursive 1. Moving from topic to topic without order; rambling 2. Proceeding coherently from topic to topic 3. Marked by analytical reasoning (Merriam Webster)

Discursive Analysis is an analysis, which exposes structures of power and knowledge and locates a discourse within historical, cultural and social relations (Sardar and Van Loon)

Displacement [Freud] A mode of primary unconscious thought or emotion in which the meaning or feeling about one image, word, or idea is transferred onto another one (see Metonymy) (Palmer)

Egalitarianism 1. Asserting or promoting the views that men are equal, esp. politically or socially (Merriam-Webster)

Empiricism The theory according to which all knowledge derives from "experience" where "experience" is explicated in terms of sense-data; therefore, the view that all knowledge can be traced to direct observation. (See Logical Empiricism) (Palmer)

Enthymeme [Aristotle] A partial syllogism where the rhetor delivering the structure presupposes that the audience will supply the missing part - the result should be cooperative understanding in which the audience is persuaded to the truth of the structure by virtue of having participated in making it fully meaningful. (See Classical Rhetoric) (Covino/Jolliffe)

Épistème 1. Pertaining to "knowledge" 2. Designating the whole of the system that organizes information and authorizes dispensation and control of "knowledge" during different historical periods. (Palmer)

Epistemology The study of the nature, origin, and limits of human knowledge (www.eb.com)

Essence [Poststructuralism] That characteristic (or set of characteristics) that an object has in common with similar objects and which allows members of the class of objects to be defined (Palmer)

Essentialism The metaphysical view that in reality there exists not only individual objects but also essences (see Essence) (Palmer)

Ethnography [Anthropology] One of several methods that is used to research members or groups of a specific culture or community (Bishop)

Discussion: Ethnographies are used to study writing communities and the rhetoric of different cultures. The ethnographer moves into the culture or community and may become a participant or observer or participant-observer in order to study the customs, designs and writing methodology or practices of the culture or community.

Important Works:

Ethnographic Writing Research by Wendy Bishop

The Professional Stranger: An Informal Introduction to Ethnography by Michael Agar

Ethos [Aristotle] One of the three means of persuasion Aristotle describes; refers to the perceived trustworthiness, credibility, and reliability of a communicator (Lay, et al.) (See *Classical Rhetoric, Appeals*)

Existentialism [Soren Kierkegaard, Jean Paul Sartre, Fredric Nietzsche] The philosophical position according to which "existence precedes essence"; this view entails the assertion that there is no such thing as "human nature," if that phrase is meant to designate characteristics that determine our behavior; the determinant of our behavior is freedom or exercising the power of choice

Discussion: In existentialism there is a focus on individualism, self-awareness and experience (particularly moral anguish, suffering, absurdity of one's situation, etc.). In Sartre's vision, man is born into a kind of void. He has the liberty to remain in this void and thus lead a passive, supine, acquiescent existence in a "semi conscious" state and in which he is scarcely aware of himself. (Cuddon)

Expressivism or Expressionistic Rhetoric or Expressivist Rhetoric Field in composition studies focusing on the individuals thoughts and thought processes as a primary component of writing

Contributors: Peter Elbow, William Coles, Ken Macrorie, Donald Murray, Walker Gibson, Pat Belanoff.

Important Texts:

Writing Without Teachers by Peter Elbow

A Writer Teaches Writing by Donald Murray

I-Search Paper by William Coles jr.

"Rhetoric and Ideology in the Writing Classroom" by James Berlin

Feminism Theory or Feminism Field in composition studies and rhetoric focusing on the condition, representation, differences and thoughts of women 2. A movement looking for gender inequality 3. A theory of criticism looking at the levels of production of texts, structure and language of texts, and reading/critical practices in order to find gender inequality

Contributors: Elizabeth Flynn, Bell Hooks, Simone de Beauvoir, Luce Irigaray, Michéle Le Doeuff, Carole Pateman

Functionalism 1. Any doctrine or practice that lays stress upon function, use, or adaptation (Merriam-Webster) 2. A belief that includes the notions that inequality is inevitable and desirable, positions in society are ranked by order of importance, and important positions in society require more training and should receive more rewards

Gender 1. Sex, either Male or Female (Merriam-Webster) 2. An area of composition studies focusing on issues between Male and Female interactions in writing, literary interpretation and academic relationships

Generative Rhetoric [Francis Christensen] Instructional strategy for generating ideas in sentences and paragraphs by using structures to teach imitation.

Important Works:

Sentence Combining: A Rhetorical Perspective by Donald Daiker

Notes Towards a New Rhetoric by Francis Christensen, et al.

Genre A Category of document in literature or academic writing characterized by a particular style, form and content (e.g. a novel, a lab report, or cookbook) (Lay, et al.)

Hegemonic Containing characteristics of hegemony

Hegemony [Cultural Studies] Preponderant influence or authority over others; domination

Contributors: Antonio Gramsci, Victor Villanueva

Hypertext Nonlinear digital documentation that can be accessed online or over the internet; refers to many types of programming languages used to convey messages digitally (e.g., html, xml, html2, php, etc.).

Heuristic 1. Serving to discover or to simulate investigation; -of methods of demonstration which tend to lead a person to investigate further by himself (Merriam-Webster) 2. Strategic thinking for rhetorical inquiry

Hermeneutics The study of the methodological principles of interpretation (Merriam Webster)

Hermeneutical Containing or referring to the characteristics of hermeneutics

Heterogeneity In the state of or having the quality of being different; having unlike qualities

Hierarchy 1. Rank or order 2. A series of objects divided or classified in ranks or orders; a hierarchical arrangement (Merriam-Webster)

Historicism Of or referring to the study of texts in terms of historic significance

Inclusive 1. Including or tending to include 2. Comprehending the stated limit or extremes (Merriam-Webster)

Induction The act or process of reasoning from a part to a whole, from particulars to generals, or from the individual to the universal

Intertextuality [Julia Kristeva] Term used to denote the interdependence of literary texts, the interdependence of any one literary text with all those that have existed before it (Cuddon)

Discussion: Kristeva's contention was that a literary text is not an isolated phenomenon but is made up of a mosaic of quotations, and that any text is an absorption and transformation of another (Cuddon)

Lexical Of, pertaining to or connected with words, or the vocabulary of a language, as distinguished from its grammar or construction.

Linear Pertaining to the idea that an object or concept has a definite beginning and end by following a straight line or direct sequence

Literacy 1. Pertaining to the ability to read and write, especially the ability to read. 2. Referring to reading ability and development

Logical Empiricism (see *Empiricism*)

Logical Positivism Philosophical doctrine, according to which scientific knowledge is the only kind of factual knowledge and all traditional metaphysical doctrines are to be rejected as meaningless (www.eb.com)

Logocentrism [Jacques Derrida] Concept whereby the spoken word is prioritized over the written word

Discussion: In Poststructuralist deconstruction or Derrida's deconstruction, logocentrism is an important component into understanding the written word as a mere imitation of the truth or supplement to truth or falsification of truth, which as Derrida indicates resides with the spoken word or immediate truth

Logos [Aristotle, Classical Rhetoric] 1. One of the three means of persuasion described by Aristotle; refers to the appeal to the evidence and the listener's or readers reasoning process (Lay, et al.) 2. Use of definition, description, syllogistic logic, presentation of data or other logical form to persuade or inform (see *Appeals, Classical Rhetoric*)

Marxism [Karl Marx, Fredric Engels] Belief or theory that the way people think and behave in society is determined by basic economic factors (Moon)

Contributors: Terry Eagleton

Discussion: According to Moon, "Marx's views sees how groups of people who owned and controlled major industries could exploit the rest of the population, first through conditions of employment, and second by forcing their own values and beliefs onto other social groups" (Moon).

Matrices or Matrix 1. The womb 2. A place or enveloping elements within which something originates, takes form, or develops (Merriam-Webster)

Metadiscourse 1. Designates a particular function of language, one that establishes interpersonal bonds and sustains intertextual contact; more specifically, subsumes various kinds of linguistic markers that speakers or writers use to convey their expressive and attitudinal, rather than purely propositional meanings. (Enos) 2. Discourse about discourse. 3. Discourse within discourse.

Metaphysics 1. The philosophical study whose objective is to determine the real nature of things--to determine the meaning, structure, and principles of whatever is insofar as it is (www.eb.com) 2. Relating to external nature 3. Division of philosophy which includes ontology, or the science of being, and cosmology, or the science of the fundamental causes and processes in things; in a looser sense, all of the more abstruse philosophical disciplines; in a narrower sense, ontology alone. (Merriam-Webster)

Metaphysical 1. Pertaining to metaphysics; having or pertaining to real being and essential nature of reality

Metonymy 1. Figure of speech in which an object is named by using the part for the whole (e.g. the Crowns of Europe). 2. Using something tangentially associated with the object to name the object (e.g. Joe likes the bottle too much).

Monologic [Mikhail Bakhtin] Voices of the characters of a story are totally governed by the author with no distinction

Modernism/Modernity Academic renaissance and movement that began in the closing years of the 19th century and continued into the early years of the 20th century

Contributors: Sigmund Freud, Charles Darwin, Karl Marx, Max Weber, Walter Benjamin, Maurice Blanchot, James Joyce, Friedrich Nietzsche, Georg Simmel, Philippe Sollers

Modern Rhetoric Surge of rhetoric development from the "last third of the century" that contains new material spawned from the traditional values of rhetoric and a borrowing of ideology and theory from new developments in philosophy

Contributors: Bell Hooks, Chaim Perelman, Elizabeth Flynn, Kenneth Pike, James Berlin, Kenneth Burke, I.A. Richards, Richard Weaver, Stephen Toulmin, Ernesto Grassi, Michel Foucault, Jürgen Habermas, Jacques Derrida,

Important Works:

Contemporary Perspectives on Rhetoric by Sonja Foss, et al.

Professing the New Rhetorics: A Sourcebook by Theresa Enos, et al.

Module Individual learning unit or chapter

Multiculturalism Educational movement towards creating a diverse learning environment

Narrative or Personal Narrative A form of discourse, which focuses on aspects of story telling with an emphasis placed on the first person (I, Me)

Ontogeny Developmental analysis of the history of an individual; in contrast with phylogeny) (Palmer)

Ontology Theory or study of being, as such; i.e., of the basic characteristics of all reality (www.eb.com)

Orality [Walter Ong, Cognitivists] Concern in composition studies relating to speech and spoken forms of discourse

Contributors: Walter Ong

Paradigm 1. Model or pattern (Merriam-Webster) 2. A repeated structure for accomplishing tasks

Paradigmatic 1. Exemplary; typical 2. Of or pertaining to paradigms 3. a term in linguistics designating the "vertical" feature of language whereby one term in a sentence can be meaningfully replaced by a related term (e.g. "Dog" for "Animal") (in contrast with Syntagmatic) (Palmer)

Pathos [Aristotle] One of three means of persuasion described by Aristotle; refers to the appeal a communicator makes to the most basic and deeply held values and beliefs of the audience (Lay) (see *Appeals, Classical Rhetoric*)

Pedagogy The art, practice or profession of teaching; especially, systematized learning or instruction concerning principles and methods of teaching (Merriam-Webster)

Pentad [Burke] a method developed by Kenneth Burke to analyze the inherent drama of human relations or what he labels Dramatism (Enos)

Discussion: Concerned with the motives involved in a given situation, Burke asks, "What is involved, when we say what people are doing and why they are doing it?" (Enos)

Important Works:

A Grammar of Motives by Kenneth Burke

Phenomenology [Edmund Husserl, Martin Heidegger] 1. A method of philosophical inquiry, which lays stress on the perceiver's vital and central role in determining meaning. (Cuddon) 2. An exploration of the unique personality behind a piece of discourse.

Discussion: "In Husserl's view proper object of philosophical inquiry is not the objects in the world that are perceivable through the sense but, rather, the a priori contents of our consciousness. Thus, the method demands a close inspection of mental and intellectual states and processes. By using this method, he believed, it is possible to reveal the underlying nature of consciousness and phenomena, and to do so in an a-temporal and a-historical way - the point of being to establish a trans-subjective theory of understanding." (Cuddon)

Phylogeny Developmental analysis of a biologically related group; a phylum, a species, a sub-species (in contrast to Ontogeny) (Palmer)

Pluralism When two groups remain distinct but equal

Portfolio or Writing Portfolio 1. Collection of discourse 2. Process-based display of writing, usually demonstrating a visible progress from start to finish (e.g. prewriting to final drafts)

Positivism The belief that the understanding of the world should be based on science or scientific knowledge (see Logical Positivism)

Post Colonialism Movement against and examining the colonizing forces in literature, cultural studies and education

Post-Marxist A Movement which questions the reductive, and anti-democratic nature of Marxism, and of any political movement which explains changes in history in terms of the role of a specific class or privileged agency (Lechte)

Contributors: Theodore Adorno, Hannah Arendt, Jürgen Habermas, Ernesto Laclau, Alain Touraine

Postmodernism or Post Modernism Movement that refers to the changes which have taken place (and are taking place) since Modernism

Contributors: Ihab Hassan, Fredric Jameson, Jean Baudrillard, Michel Foucault, Jacques Derrida, David Harvey, Donna Haraway, Phillip Dick, William Gibson, Marguerite Duras, Franz Kafka, Jean-François Lyotard.

Discussion: Postmodernism is an interest word that invokes what borders on the edge of what is conceivably possible or even fictional. Postmodernism tends to react against the thoughts in modernism or the modernist movement. There are several postmodern artifacts which help us to understand the meanings of postmodernism (e.g. the films *Bladerunner* or *Johnny Mnemonic* or *1984* or *The Matrix*; the fiction of William Gibson, Phillip Dick and others; musical artists such as Madonna and Marilyn Manson - although these examples are sometimes dark and seemingly displaced in modernist perspectives, these examples are great for demonstrating the principles or concepts found in postmodernism such as simulacrum and cyberpunks. Computers and Composition, as well as literary studies, follow the essence of postmodernism very carefully.

Poststructuralism or Post Structuralism Movement in the attempt to advance and correct the implications and shortcomings of structuralism and its basis in the linguistic theory of Ferdinand de Saussure.

Contributors: Ferdinand de Saussure, Roland Barthes, Jacques Lacan, Michel Foucault, Georges Bataille, Gilles Deleuze, Emmanuel Levinas, Jacques Derrida,

Discussion: Poststructuralism is another important movement that affects rhetoric and composition. After the reigning paradigms from Freud, Saussure and others became foundations for the work in philosophy. Language studies and science, poststructuralists began to question the motives and reasoning of these works. As a result, poststructuralists such as Lacan have questioned the work of Freud, Michel Foucault has looked at the relevance of the author to the text, Derrida questions Saussurian linguistic practices, etc. And, still, poststructuralists in rhetoric and composition look at poststructural concepts such as marginalization of ideas or individuals, and the "play" of words in a text.

Pragmatic (see *Pragmatism*)

Pragmatism A philosophy based on the principle that the usefulness, workability, and practicality of ideas, policies, and proposals are the criteria of their merit

Discussion: Pragmatism stresses the priority of action over doctrine, of experience over fixed principles, and pragmatism holds that ideas borrow their meanings from their consequences and their truths from their verification. Thus, ideas are essentially instruments and plans of action.

Praxis Practice and theory merged into action

Purpose [Kenneth Burke] Describes the "why" behind the act (see *Pentad*)

Qualifier [Stephen Toulmin] an adverb used to modify a claim in order to clarify the claim and protect the creditability of the author (e.g. typically, usually, for the most part, some, several, few, sometimes, many)

Qualitative or Qualitative Research A form of research relating to or concerned with quality (tends to be more or less subjective in nature) – includes ethnography, ethno-methodology, case study, interviewing, and other forms of study.

Contributors: Harold Garfinkel, Erving Goffman

Quantitative or Quantitative Research Concerned with the measurement of phenomena, especially with respect to its quantity (tends to be more or less objective in nature) – includes surveying and/or mathematical computation

Queer Theory [Max Weber] a branch of cultural studies focusing on the interaction or opposition of heterosexual and homosexual relationships in discourse and culture

Rationalism The view that (a) everything in reality is logically consistent with everything else in reality, and the view (b) that this logical consistency can be grasped by the human mind, because (c) the human mind reflects the logical structure of reality (Palmer)

Realism The view that there is an objective reality to which human subjectivity has access (Palmer)

Recursive Of, relating to, or constituting a procedure or idea that can repeat itself indefinitely (Merriam-Webster)

Refutation/Rebuttal [Stephen Toulmin] Structure in Toulminian argument, which discredits the opposition's counter-arguments by proving their logic faulty, their support weak, or their warrants invalid

Relativism The denial of absolute truths or absolute facts, and the claim that the truths and facts achieve their "truthfulness" or "factualness" only relative to other "truths" or "facts" which are themselves relative to yet other "truths" or "facts" (Palmer)

Reflexive Denoting an action that is directed back upon the agent, actor, or subject.

Rhetoric 1. The art of expressive speech or of discourse 2. The art of writing well in prose 3. Skillful or artistic use of speech; artificial elegance of language. (Merriam-Webster)

Scene [Kenneth Burke] The background of the act 2. The situation in which the act occurs (see *Pentad*)

Semiology or Semiotics The study of "signs," encompassing linguistics, but also dealing with other systems of signs, such as gestures, dress codes, and rules of conduct (Palmer)

Contributors: Roland Barthes, Umberto Eco, Algirdas Julien Greimas, Louis Hjelmslev, Julia Kristeva, Charles Sanders Peirce, Ferdinand de Saussure, Tzvetan Todorov

Scheme [Edward Corbett, Classical Rhetoric] Major division of the general category of figurative language, which involves a deviation from the ordinary pattern and arrangement of words (Covino/Jolliffe)

Sign [Ferdinand de Saussure] 1. Result of a structural relationship between the signifier and the signified (Enos) 2. the unit of meaning composed of the combination of a "signifier" and a "signified" (Palmer) (see *Structuralism, Semiotics*)

Signified [Ferdinand de Saussure] 1. The concept referred to (Enos) 2. Idea or concept designated by a "signifier" and combining with it to create a "sign" (Palmer) 3. Mental association of a "sign" (Sardar and Van Loon) (see *Structuralism, Semiotics*)

Signifier [Ferdinand de Saussure] 1. Sound image or its graphic counterpart (Enos) 2. the audio-image (sound) or visual image that is associated by contention with a "signified" to create a "sign" (Palmer) 3. The physical form of a "sign" (Sardar and Van Loon) (see *Structuralism, Semiotics*)

Signifying/Signifyin' [African-American Rhetoric] Ritualized insult, a verbal put down, in which the speaker needles his audience or some member of the audience either to initiate verbal 'war' or to make a point hit home.

Simulacra or Simulacrum [Jean Baudrillard/Postmodernism] Copies of real objects or events so similar and so real that the original is no longer possesses importance

Social Epistemic Rhetorics or Social Constructionism [David Bartholomae, Patricia Bizzell, Greg Myers, James Berlin] Ideology and field in composition studies negating the thoughts of the individual in favor of social construction of written texts

Contributors: Kenneth Burke, Richard Ohmann, Kenneth Bruffee, Lester Faigley,

Important Texts:

"Inventing the University" by David Bartholomae

"Rhetoric and Ideology in the Writing Classroom" by James Berlin

Solipsism The view that "My world is *the* world," or more technically, that one only has access to the contents of one's own mind, hence one has no good reason to believe in the existence of anything other than one's own mind (Palmer)

Structuralism [Ferdinand de Saussure, Claude Levi-Strauss] Theory of social reality that applies the principles of linguistics to all social phenomena, such that social meaning is reducible to a system of oppositional relationships ("structures") which define "sameness" and "otherness" (Palmer)

Contributors: Gaston Bachelard, Mikhail Bakhtin, Georges Canguilhem, Jean Cavaillés, Sigmund Freud, Marcel Mauss, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Louis Althusser, Emile Benveniste, Pierre Bourdieu, Noam Chomsky, Georges Dumézil, Gerard Genette, Roman Jakobson, Jacques Lacan, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Christian Metz, Michel Serres

Discussion: Derived from Saussure's linguistic theories, Structuralism examines the world (especially texts and spoken words) as it is situated in language. The study of signs, signifiers and the signified are extremely important, as well as the interaction of these forces in the construction of meaning.

Important Texts:

Course in General Linguistics by Ferdinand de Saussure

Style Concern of rhetoric and composition that focuses on the selection and conveyance of words and sentences

Subculture Group with a distinctive lifestyle within a society

Syllogism [Aristotle] Logical analysis of a formal argument, consisting of a major premise, a minor premise and the conclusion (see *Classical Rhetoric*)

Syntagmatic Term in linguistics designating that "horizontal" feature of language whereby a sequence of parts of speech can be developed into meaningful phrases (e.g. the sequence: subject-conjugated verb-object that allows the sentences, "Mary sues her lawyer," and "Sue marries her lawyer" to be meaningful (contrast to Paradigmatic) (Palmer)

Taxonomy Classification of objects or entities according to their relationship to each other

Technical Writing A subgenre of technical communication, which focuses making scientific and technical discourse accessible to the lay audience.

Important Texts:

Technical Communication by M. Lay, B. Wahlstrom, C. Rude, C. Selfe, and J. Selzer

Terministic Screen [Kenneth Burke] The terms or vocabulary used as a result of occupations, which directs attention to particular aspects of reality rather than others

Tokenism The practice or belief of having one person of a particular ethnicity or culture serve as a sample or representative of his/her entire population

Toulminian Argument or Toulmin's Layout of Argument [Stephen Toulmin] Method for analyzing and creating arguments

Important Texts:

The Uses of Argument by Stephen Toulmin

The Structure of Argument by Annette Rottenberg

Elements of Argument by Annette Rottenberg

Trope [Edward Corbett, Classical Rhetoric] A Major division of figurative language which involves a deviation from the ordinary and principal signification of a word (Covino/Jolliffe)

Universality That quality in a work of art (or writing) which enables the work to transcend the limits of the particular situation, place, time, person and incident in such a way that it may be of interest, pleasure and profit (in the non-commercial sense) to all people at any time in any place (Cuddon)

Voice Of or pertaining to the idea of oral characteristics of voice (use of words, sentences, length and duration of ideas, etc.) can be found in written form.

Usability Of or pertaining to the idea of how easily or accurately a document can be used (Lay)

Warrant [Stephen Toulmin] Structure in a Toulminian argument connecting the claim and the support, which is derived from our cultural experiences and personal observations about the subject of an argument

Writing Assessment Field in composition studies focusing on the idea of assessing students for placement in differing levels of writing programs (basic, intermediate, advanced)

Writing Process 1. Of or pertaining to how a writer composes a piece of discourse 2. A process of writing usually involving the steps of prewriting, drafting, revision, and publishing.

Contributors: Donald Murray, Peter Elbow

Important Works:

A Writer Teaches Writing by Donald Murray

Writing with Power by Peter Elbow

Post-Process Theory by Thomas Kent

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