CORH 400-00: Special Topics in Communication: Rhetoric of Science

Instructor: Dr. Saeed Sabzian

Course Description:

"Rhetoric of Science" is an interdisciplinary course that explores the persuasiveness of scientific discourse, focusing on how scientists construct, argue, and establish scientific knowledge by persuading and dissuading each other, governments, and citizens. Course readings include foundational essays and case studies in the field of 'Rhetoric of Science' applied to a variety of scientific discourses including climate rhetoric, environmental rhetoric, public health rhetoric, sciences of race/eugenics, and data science rhetoric (especially algorithms). Students will analyze scientific texts and scholarly research articles through foundational concepts and theories from the domain of rhetoric.

Tentative Reading List:

Required Readings:
1. Landmark Essays on Rhetoric of Science: Case Studies edited by Randy Allen Harris, 2018, 2nd Edition. Routledge.
2. Landmark Essays in Rhetoric of Science: Issues and Methods, edited by Randy Allen Harris, 2020 London: Routledge.

3. The Rhetoric of Science, by Alan Gross, 1990, Harvard University Press.
4. Jeanne Fahnestock: "Series Reasoning in Scientific Argument: Incrementum and Gradatio and the Case of Darwin," Rhetoric Society Quarterly 26.4(Fall 1996): 13-40,
5. Jeanne Fahnestock "Accommodating Science: The Rhetorical Life of Scientific Facts," Written Communication 3 (July 1986): 275-96,

Recommended Videos: Interviews with important authors who developed the field of Rhetoric of Science assembled by the ARSTM. Available on YouTube.