This course will focus on recent and contemporary European approaches to rhetoric, poetics, and narrative, working at the intersections of literary theory, stylistics, philosophy, and linguistics. The objective is to develop ideas and potentially methodologies for studying literature and discourse in general in today's intellectual context. We will engage the readings on a theoretical level, level, but will also show how they can inform concrete textual analyses.

The course will concentrate successively on six overlapping and interdependent topics:
1) Language, Rhetoric, Communication (Aristotle, Plato, Horace, Jakobson, Shklovsky);
2) Narrative (Aristotle, V. Propp, K. Hamburger, R. Barthes, T. Todorov, A. J. Greimas, J. Bruner, L. Talmy);
3) Point of view (J. Cortázar, B. Brecht, G. Genette, M. Bal);
4) Metaphor and Figurative Language (G. Fauconnier, P. Ricoeur, G. Lakoff & M. Johnson);
5) Text, Reader, Interpretation (W. Iser, H. R. Jauss, U. Eco);

In addition to class discussion, occasional individual presentations to the class, and a midterm examination, students will write three papers (two short and one long) in which they will bring to bear selected ideas from the course on their particular field and area, exploring, critiquing, developing, and applying approaches studied in the class.

For information, please contact Prof. Broden, broden@purdue.edu.