

ENGL 7/8820

Dr. Scott Sundvall

Thursdays 5:30-8:30pm

### **Post-Truth Rhetorics**

QAnon, Pizzagate, fake news, alternative facts, InfoWars, anti-vaxxer propaganda, Flat Earth conspiracy theories, etc.: our post-truth moment has arrived in full form. Yet the irony of our post-truth problematic is not that we lack information but rather that there is an overabundance of information (Jenny Rice), from which fabricated narratives, built on false patterns in pursuit of affirmation, emerge. This graduate seminar will plainly ask, what is rhetoric's necessary and categorical attendance to (post-)truth, insofar as rhetoric is, broadly understood, the available means of persuasion? To this end, this course will reflect on how rhetoric studies can best understand "post-truth" not in terms of *what it is* but rather *how it works*—and how such can be reappropriated in the service of common good and well-being.