HU 418 Special Topics in Rhetoric: Rhetoric of Science
Instructor: Dr. Carol Berkenkotter  
e-mail: cberken@mtu.edu
Office: Walker 328  
Office Hours: T 2-3:30  
Th 11-12:30
Classroom Walker 108  
Class Time: TTh. 9:30-11

Texts:
Charles Bazerman, *The Languages of Edison's Light*, 1999


Course Goal: To become familiar with major issues in rhetorical/social studies of science and technology

Syllabus

March
7 Introduction to course, brief description of area of study, syllabus details
9 Alan Gross, Rhetoric of Science, chaps 1-2. Grad. students read “Preface.”
14 Gross, cont. chapters 3,4,5,6 Grad. student presentation on chap. 5 (5-10 min.)
16 Gross, cont. chapters 9-10, Grad. students, chap. 12 (11, if time permits).
21 Bazerman, introduction, chaps. 1-4, pp. 1-84.
23 Bazerman, chaps. 5-7, pp. 85-156. Grad. stud pres.—key issues (10 min).
28 Bazerman, chaps. 8-12, pp. 160-257.
30 Bazerman, chaps. 13-15; Grad. students: presentation on chap. 15 (10 min).

April
6 Latour & Woolgar, chaps. 3-4, pp. 105-186.
18 Latour, chap. 2, pp. 59-110. **Course paper/oral presentations handout**
20 Latour, chaps. 3-4, pp. 111-150.
25 Atkinson, introduction, pp. xvii + (all); chaps. 1-2, pp. 1-55.

May
2 Atkinson, chaps. 5-7, pp. 110-170.
4 Student presentations

9-11 Student presentations, cont. Course evaluations, wrap-up.
12 Course paper due, my mailbox, no later than 4:30 p.m.
Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes; the instructor will allow three class absences for illness, plant trips, personal reasons, etc. (CCCC trip is an excused absence.) More than three absences will drop grades one level (B to C; C to D, etc. Missing five classes or more is grounds for failure.

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commentaries</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course paper</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral presentation(s)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(grad students)</td>
<td>(40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation (in class, on e-mail list)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commentaries: A minimum of 225 words (one double-spaced typed page) on the assigned reading, due each Tuesday. No hand written papers, please.

Your commentary is due on the same day that we discuss the material, but if you forget to bring it, you may turn in the commentary at the next class meeting, but no later.

Be sure you are consistent with headings on your commentary. In the upper right hand corner of the first page, print your name, then under your name, print the author's. For example, Judy Smith Latour and Woolgar

The commentary need not be a polished essay but merely a collection of thoughts or ideas on the assigned reading. You may raise questions about the author's (authors') research methods, the extent or depth of the research, the claims the author makes, or you may discuss key issues, ideas, or concepts. Feel free to raise as many questions as you wish.

Grading will be pass/fail on individual commentaries, with the number of commentaries you submit providing the letter grade (e.g., if you submit all assigned commentaries, your grade will be an A; all but two, a B, all but 3-4 a C, etc.

If you have specific questions about the class, the assignments, e-mail is a more efficient method for communicating with me. If your question is of general interest, use our class listserv.

Course paper/oral presentation:

Papers should be 6-10 pages on some issue that you have found central to your understanding of the approaches, problems, or methods of inquiry in rhetoric of science. Or you may want to compare the approach/methods of two authors. Oral presentations, in which you share the ideas in your paper with the rest of the class should be fifteen minutes. Rather than reading your paper, you should talk from notes, using overheads.

Class listserv

For students who wish to pursue issues in class discussion between class meetings, we have a computer discussion list. Everyone on my class roster is automatically subscribed; it takes about a week for my request to be processed. Use the listserv to continue discussions to which you may not have had the chance to contribute. The listserv is an excellent way to raise your participation grade, if you are not a regular contributor to in-class discussions.

Americans with Disabilities Act

MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 (ADA).

If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students. For other concerns about discrimination, contact your advisor, the department head, or the Affirmative Action Office (3310).