UN 2001

Revisions: Oral, Written and Visual Communication

Class meets: Mon-Wed-Fri 10am - 10:55am Fischer 125
Instructor: Karen Springsteen
Office: Walker 312
Office hours: Monday 11am - 12:00pm
Email: kspring@mtu.edu

Course Description

As one of the four core courses required by Michigan Technological University, Revisions is essentially a class about rhetoric. In Revisions, we will work to increase our consciousness of what is happening when communication takes place. We will examine how oral, written and visual communication can work together to get messages across in different situations. We will study different conventions of communication so that we can make effective communication choices given our intents, audiences, and overall circumstances.

Daily coursework includes readings, essays to be written in response of one of seven prescribed question sets, discussion, and in class exercises.

Four formal assignments correlate to four main components of the Revisions class.

Class Component | Assignment
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1. All About Rhetoric | Visual Argument and presentation
2. Digging In | Pitch Proposal
3. Analysis | Critical Analysis Research Paper and presentation
4. Application | Final Group Project

Required Texts


Grading

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual Argument</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crit. Analysis Research Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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| Jan 16 | Rhetoric of Neutrality  
                Period Styles                |
| Jan 18 | Generic Criticism                                                 |
| Jan 21 | Show and Tell  
                Non-Designer's p. 11-62       |
| Jan 28 | Audiences and Intentions (handout)  
                How Documents Engage Readers' Thinking and Feeling |
| Feb 4  | Non-Designer's p. 73-125  
                Pursuit of Happiness       |
| Feb 8  | NO CLASS                                                             |
| Feb 11 | Presentation of Visual Arguments                                    |
| Feb 13 | Icebreaker p. 54-59, 108-114 (handout)                               |
| Feb 15 | Inviting Transformation  
                Involvement Strategies in a Speech by Reverend Jesse Jackson  
                The Power of Saddam Hussein's War Rhetoric  |
| Feb 20 | Pitch Proposals                                                     |
| Feb 25 | The Word  
                A Room of One's Own (handout)  
                Critical Thinking and Listening |

**SPRING BREAK: MARCH 2 - 10**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 18-22</td>
<td>NO CLASS--INDIVIDUAL WRITING CONFERENCES</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 25-29</td>
<td>Presentation of Critical Analysis Research Papers (paper due upon presentation)</td>
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| April 3    | Absolute PowerPoint  
                Life of the Dialogue  
                Women Who Turn the Gaze Around               |
| April 8    | Language, Politics and Power  
                Swastika Chic                            |
| April 10-12| NO CLASS--GROUP CONFERENCES                                           |
| April 15   | Rhetorical Background  
                Constructing Connections                                    |
| April 22-26| Presentation of Final Group Projects                                  |
| May 3      | CLASS CANCELLED                                                     |

**THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM IN THIS CLASS.**

Boldfaced readings above require a 1-2 page essay. Essays should draw upon the texts that you’ve read and be written in response to one of the following question sets. Essays are due on the date in the left hand column.
Essay Questions

1. What is rhetoric? What are some specific rhetorical concepts? How do these concepts help shape pieces of communication in different ways? Do you think rhetoric is civilizing, neutral or evil?

2. What is meant by "genre" and "generic conventions"? What different kinds of genre and generic conventions are there? How does genre shape material to meet audience expectations? How does genre help an audience come to a piece of communication with readily shaped expectations?

3. What makes good communication? To what extent is good communication bound to time, place, ideology and culture?

4. What are some ethical and cultural dimensions of communication?

5. What are some principles of design? In what ways can words and images work together to create different effects? In what ways can different parts of an oral, written, or visual text be coordinated? What kinds of appeals can be made?

6. What is an argument? What do we do with it? What kind of relationship does it assume between people? What are some different options for presenting an argument?

7. What does it mean to be a citizen? How is civic participation part of your life and your community?

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is considered cheating, and it is a serious academic offense. MTU's academic integrity policy defines it as "knowingly copying another's work or ideas and calling them one's own or not giving proper credit or citation," and it covers copying sections, major ideas, or entire papers from printed or electronic sources as well as handing in papers written by other students. Plagiarism is dishonest; it prevents learning.

Discrimination and Harassment

MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination including the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have a disability and need reasonable accommodation for equal access to education and services at MTU, please contact Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students (487-2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the affirmative action office (487-3510).