UN 2001: REVISIONS
Written, Oral, and Visual Communication

Revisions Section 01 Fall 2005
Instructor: Nathan J. Carpenter
Office: Walker 148
Office Hours: Wednesday 9am-10am
Thursday noon-1pm; or by appointment
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Course Description:
Welcome to Revisions! This course is one of four required core courses in MTU’s General Education Curriculum. This class has been designed to help you integrate communicative strategies and rhetorical analysis into your work life, personal life, and civic life, so that you may benefit from a richer understanding of the communicative process. You will do so by participating in classroom discussions and workshops, and by completing major written, oral, and visual projects.

Textbook:
Wysocki, Anne F. and Dennis A. Lynch. compose/design/advocate: a rhetoric for integrating written, visual, and oral communication. New York: Longman, 2005. I refer to this book as CDA in the calendar. Please bring it to every class!

Email:
I may ask you to respond to class discussions or complete assignments via email. Please use your MTU email address.

Projects:
You will encounter four major projects in this class. These projects will be based in a series of smaller assignments. You need to complete every assignment in order to receive a passing grade in Revisions.
The major projects will consist of:

1. A Research Paper
Research and write a 5-7 page paper about a controversy in your field of study that you feel strongly about—help the rest of the world understand this controversy.

2. An Oral Presentation
After reading a selection of essays, you and your group will choose a related topic to deliver a 20-minute presentation. A panel of your peers will evaluate your strategy. (Don’t worry - you will get to evaluate them too!)

3. A Rhetorical Analysis Project
Cozy up to advertisements, websites, pamphlets, junk mail, etc., and write a 4 page comparative analysis of the rhetoric at work in the everyday media of your life. Then turn around and make your own advertisement using the same rhetorical techniques.

4. A Museum Installation
Use everything you’ve learned this semester to create and present a museum installation on the controversy you used in Project #1.

Final Portfolio:
To evaluate the effectiveness of the Revisions course, the University expects you to turn in a final portfolio of your best work. Hang on to everything you do for this class, including unmarked copies of every draft you write. You will not receive your final grade until you have turned in your final portfolio!

Grading:
You will complete four major projects over the semester. These projects will be comprised of smaller assignments, that, when added together, will result in your project grade. Your grades will be weighted as follows:
Project 1: 20%
Project 2: 20%
Project 3: 20%
Project 4: 20%
In-Class: 10%
Final Portfolio: 10%

Your In-Class grade will reflect a combination of attendance, assignments, and in-class participation. For each individual project, I will provide you a rubric detailing how projects will be evaluated.

Late Assignments & Projects:
I will not accept late projects without penalty unless you come to me before the due date to work something out. Otherwise your grade will drop a half-letter grade for each day it is late. (A to AB, for example).

Attendance Policy:
Because we will be doing loads of in-class work and project development in groups, it is essential to your grade and important to your fellow students that you are at every class, especially on workshop days and when projects are due. BUT we all human and all know that “excrement occurs,” so you are permitted to miss 3 classes per semester; subsequent absences will negatively affect your grade. Excessive lateness will be considered an absence. Please let me know in advance if you cannot make a class so that I can plan accordingly. You will be responsible for obtaining missed notes and assignments in a timely manner.

MTU's Academic Integrity Policy:
Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses. They are defined by this policy as “knowingly copying another’s work or ideas and calling them one’s own or not giving proper credit or citation,” and this policy covers copying sections or entire papers from printed or electronic sources, as well as handing in papers written by students for other classes or purchasing academic papers. Plagiarism and cheating not only are dishonest, but also cheat you out of learning, the prime reason you are here. If you ever have questions about this issue, please talk with your instructor or consult a coach in the Writing Center (7-2007).

MTU’s Policy on Discrimination and Harassment:
MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. If you have a disability and need reasonable accommodation for equal access to education and services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melon, Associate Dean of Students (7-2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (7-3310).

Code of Ethics:
During the course of discussion in this class you may run into ideas or topics that are foreign to you, or ones that you may outright disagree with. Please treat your fellow classmates with dignity by respecting their right to express their beliefs and/or opinions.

A Final Note:
As instructor of this course, I reserve the right to modify this syllabus to meet the various needs of this class. As always, your feedback is crucial to the future success of this course.
REVISIONS COURSE CALENDAR

week 1: M 8/29 – Introduction. Reading for next time: CDA 17-56
W 8/31 – Discuss the rhetorical process. For next time: CDA 57-108
F 9/2 – Ethos, pathos, logos / design plans. For next time: CDA 143-176

week 2: M 9/5 – LABOR DAY – NO CLASS!!!
W 9/7 – Workshop - developing a research question.
F 9/9 – Workshop – research questions / strategies. For next time: CDA 181-212

week 3: M 9/12 – Research commiseration. For next time: CDA 213-222
W 9/14 – ROUGH DRAFT (PROJECT #1) DUE. Begin conferences
F 9/16 – Conference day. Free day to write / revise

week 4: M 9/19 – Conference day. Free day to write / revise
W 9/21 – PROJECT #1 DUE. Introduction to oral communication
For next time read CDA 445-464
F 9/23 – Discuss “Higher Education.” For next time: CDA 476-491

week 5: M 9/26 – Discuss “The Plaintiff Speaks.” For next time: CDA 223-250
W 9/28 – Ethos, pathos, logos & oral communication. Select Project 2 topics
For next time: CDA 251-261
F 9/30 – Being an audience / Workshop

week 6: M 10/3 – Workshop
W 10/5 – Workshop
F 10/7 – PROJECT #2 PRESENTATIONS

week 7: M 10/10 – PROJECT #2 PRESENTATIONS
W 10/12 – PROJECT #2 PRESENTATIONS
F 10/14 – Discussing evaluations. For next time: CDA 317-329

week 8: M10/17 – Introduction to rhetorical analysis. For next time: CDA 509-532
W 10/19 – Comic Book Analysis. For next time: CDA 263-304
F 10/21 – Spaghetti Jar Analysis. For next time: CDA 305-315

week 9: M 10/24 – Advertisement analysis as a class
W 10/26 – ROUGH DRAFT (PROJECT #3) DUE. Workshop
F 10/28 – Workshop on advertisement design. For next time: CDA 331-349

week 10: M10/31 – Workshop on Project 3 as a whole
W 11/2 – PROJECT #3 DUE
F 11/4 – Class analysis of Project 3 ad design. For next time: CDA 111-119
week 11: M 11/7 – Discuss advocacy. Final project introduction  
   W 11/9 – Workshop – develop design plans. For next time: Museum Handout  
   F 11/11 – Visit Mineralogical Museum (as class)  

week 12: M 11/14 – Workshop  
   W 11/16 – PROGRESS REPORT/ ROUGH DRAFT (PROJECT #4) DUE  
   F 11/18 – Free day to work on Project 4  

11/19 – 11/27 THANKSGIVING BREAK  

week 13: M 11/28 – TBA  
   W 11/30 – TBA  
   F 12/2 – PROJECT #4 PRESENTATIONS  

week 14: M 12/5 – PROJECT #4 PRESENTATIONS  
   W 12/7 – PROJECT #4 PRESENTATIONS  
   F 12/9 – PORTFOLIO DUE  

*Please note that these dates and descriptions are subject to change.*