Revisions
UN2001 R 19

Contact Info
Instructor: Shawn Apostel
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Office Hours: 2 to 4 p.m. on T (or by appt.)
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Class Info
Spring 2006
Room: 144
Days: T/R

Course Description
"Revisions" is designed to help us examine and explore the tools necessary to make informed decisions regarding the consumption and creation of information. We will accomplish this by evaluating the visual, oral, and written arguments used in advertisements, opinions, professional documents, newspaper/magazines, and websites. We will then create documents and presentations based on what we've discovered.

Student Outcomes
Upon the successful completion of this course, you will be able to

• Enhance/complement writing with visual and oral forms of communication
• Understand the composing process in written, visual, and oral communication
• Use writing to process your thoughts and organize your arguments
• Conduct, communicate, and document research for a substantial piece of argumentative writing

Main Projects
1. Poster/flyer: A visual essay designed to persuade MTU students -- due in class January 26.
3. I-Search: A paper explaining your research process as you endeavor to answer a question that interests you -- due in class February 28.
4. Collaborative research project: A research paper and presentation you and your group will conduct for an open audience explaining and arguing the stance your group took after conducting research -- due before presenting on April 11.
5. Portfolio: A collection of writing and project samples from this class -- due at my office April 21 by 5 p.m.

Small Projects (part of your class participation and portfolio grade)
1. Focused freewrites: At the beginning of some classes, we will take a few minutes to write down our thoughts on readings and assignments we completed for the class.
2. Peer Evaluations: Frequently, we will share our assignments (both daily and "in progress") with the class to receive and to give feedback.
3. Out of class assignments: You will periodically be asked to complete assignments that complement our readings for the next class.

Texts

Required:


*Designing Writing: A Practical Guide*, Mike Palmquist (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2005)

Requirements/Attendance

This class is designed around John Dewey's philosophy of “experiential learning,” which means that we will do more than just read and understand the required and selected texts; we will engage and experiment with the ideas our readings suggest. We will find examples of our discussions and readings in our daily lives and share them with the class. In short, we will own the concepts we learn. This active learning style works best when everyone attends class prepared to participate in discussions and workshops. If you miss more than two classes, your final grade will suffer – one grade level for each class (i.e. BC becomes C), and if you are late three times, it will be counted as one missed class. Also, you must complete all assignments to receive a passing grade for this course.

Flyer/Poster: 10%
Opinion/Review: 10%
I-Search: 10%
Rhetorical Analysis: 10%
Research Project: 20%
Portfolio: 20%
Class Participation: 20%

MTU's Policy on Academic Integrity

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 Melton, Dean of Students (7-2212). For other concern about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (7-3310).
Class Outline

Week 1
January 10: First day of class
January 12: Discuss Tufte reading (download from Shawn's website)
(please note that to “discuss” you need to read the assignment before class)

Week 2
January 17: Bring Flyer/Poster to redesign or a sketch for a new Flyer/Poster
Workshop/Brainstorming session on redesigning ideas
January 19 (CI): Discuss Non-Designer’s reading (download from Shawn’s website)
Discuss Chapter 1 and 15 in Designing Writing (DW)
Present findings from Design Activity on pages 12 and 13 of DW
(but do 3 websites [or digital sources] on a subject you are interested in)

Week 3
January 24: Discuss Opinion/Book or Product Review Assignment
Discuss Chapter 2 in DW
Present findings from Design Activity on page 19 of DW
(but do 2 college textbooks -- none from this class)
Flyer/Poster Workshop
January 26 (CI): Flyer/Poster due -- present to class
Discuss Chapter 1 in Envision

Week 4
January 31 (CI): Discuss Chapter 2 in Envision
Discuss I-Search assignment (download from Shawn’s website)
February 2 (CI): Opinion/Book or Product Review rough draft
Workshop session on Opinion/Book or Product Review
Discuss Chapter 3 in DW

Week 5
February 7: Conference to discuss review assignment
February 9: Winter Carnival Recess

Week 6
February 14 (CI): Discuss Chapters 4 and 5 in DW
Discuss I-Search rough draft -- bring to class (should have ~500 words)
February 16: Opinion/Book Review -- final draft with reflection letter due
Discuss Chapter 4 in Envision

Week 7
February 21: Discuss Chapters 6 and 7 in DW
February 23: I-Search Workshop -- Grammar and Spelling Check
Week 8
February 28: I-Search Presentations -- present research proposals to class
March 2: I-Search Presentations -- present research proposals to class

(One week off -- Spring Break)

Week 9
March 14 (CI): Discuss Chapter 5 in Envision
   Present “Creative Practice” project on page 139 in Envision
   Group Brainstorming and Organization Workshop
March 16: Library/Research Day -- class will meet in the library

Week 10
March 21 (CI): Discuss Group Presentations and research
   Discuss Chapter 6 of Envision
   Group Project Abstract Due (see page 112)
March 23: In Class Movie: Super Size Me -- Discussion follows
   Before class view websites listed on Shawn’s website

Week 11
March 28 (CI): Discuss Chapters 7 of Envision
   Discuss Chapters 9, 10 and 11 of DW
   3 to 5 page double spaced rhetorical analysis of Super Size Me
March 30: Group Presentations -- rough drafts due for class discussion
   Discuss Chapter 16 of DW

Week 12
April 4: No Class -- Conference to discuss presentations
April 6: No Class -- Conference to discuss presentations

Week 13
April 10: Group Presentation Workshop in Walker 134 from 5 to 8 p.m.
April 11: No Class -- Group Presentations in Walker 134 from 5 to 11 p.m.
April 13: Portfolio Workshop and Instructor Evaluation

Week 14
April 18: No Class -- Conference to discuss portfolio and final grades
April 20: No Class -- Portfolio due by 5 p.m. on April 21

* I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at my discretion.