Revisions
UN2001 R16

Contact Info
Instructor: Shawn Apostel
Office: Walker 147
Office Hours: 10 to 11 a.m. on T (or by appt.)
Web: http://www.hu.mtu.edu/~spaposte/revisions.html
Email: spaposte@mtu.edu
Office: 906.487.3276

Class Info
Fall 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
1. Learn a rhetorical process for analyzing and producing texts using written, visual, and oral communication
2. Understand how the audience and purpose in any communication situation shape effective communication
3. Analyze and produce a range of (mixed) written, visual, and oral texts in a range of genres
4. Learn how processes of reflection and invention are useful in developing communication
5. Acquire extensive practice in revising written, visual, and oral communication
6. Acquire strategies for testing and assessing your communications
7. Work both alone and collaboratively in learning and communicating
8. Learn how to conduct, communicate, and document research for a substantive piece of argumentative communication
9. On the issues you research, seek out multiple points of view in order to learn how your positions fit within wider contexts
10. Recognize that, in the context of global cultural diversity, our communication choices are effective only when we understand that and how different audiences interpret texts
11. Discuss and analyze the ethical implications of a communicator’s choices in a text

Main Projects
1. Poster/flyer: A visual essay designed to persuade MTU students or people in the community -- due in class September 21.
2. Opinion Analysis: A rhetorical analysis about something you find interesting -- due in class October 5.
3. I-Search: A paper explaining your research process as you endeavor to answer a question that interests you -- due in class October 24.
5. Collaborative research project: A 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 December 5.
6. Portfolio: A collection of writing and project samples from this class -- due at my office December 14 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.

Required Text
Compose • Design • Advocate: a rhetoric for integrating written, visual, and oral communication, Anne Wysocki and Dennis Lynch (Pearson Longman Publishing, 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 Analysis: 10%
I-Search: 20%
Film Analysis: 10%
Presentation: 10%
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
September 5: First day of class
September 7: Discuss Tufte reading (download from Shawn's website)
   (please note that to "discuss" you must read the assignment before class)

Week 2
September 12: Bring Flyer/Poster to redesign or a sketch for a new Flyer/Poster
   Workshop/Brainstorming session on redesigning ideas
   Discuss pages 33 to 56 in Compose • Design • Advocate (CDA)
September 14 (CI): Discuss Non-Designer's reading (download from Shawn's website)
   Discuss pages 285 to 299 in CDA

Week 3
September 19: Flyer/Poster Workshop
   Discuss pages 329 to 341 in CDA
September 21 (CI): Flyer/Poster due -- present to class
   Discuss Opinion Analysis
   Discuss pages 320 to 327

Week 4
September 26 (CI): Discuss Opinion Analysis first draft
   Discuss pages 80 to 96 in CDA
September 28 (CI): Discuss 1-Search assignment (download and read samples from Shawn's website)
   Discuss pages 143 to 160
   Turn in Opinion Analysis rough draft
Week 5
October 3: Conference to discuss Opinion Analysis and I-Search
October 5: Opinion Analysis -- final draft with reflection letter due

Discuss pages 61 to 77 in CDA

Week 6
October 10 (CI): Discuss I-Search rough draft -- bring two copies to class
(should have ~1000 words)

Discuss pages 256 to 258 in CDA

October 12: Library/Research Day -- class will meet in the library

Week 7
October 17: Discuss I-Search draft -- bring two copies to class
(should have ~ 2000 words)

Discuss pages 181 to 212 in CDA

October 19: I-Search Workshop -- Grammar and Spelling Check

Discuss pages 213 to 222 in CDA

Week 8
October 24: I-Search Presentations -- present research proposals to class
October 26: I-Search Presentations -- present research proposals to class

Week 9
October 31 (CI): Group Brainstorming and Organization Workshop
November 2: Discuss Group Presentations and research

Group Project Abstract Due

Discuss pages 223 to 249 in CDA

Week 10
November 7: In Class Movie: Super Size Me
(No readings this week -- work in your groups)

November 9: In Class Movie: Super Size Me -- Discussion follows

Week 11
November 14 (CI): 3 to 5 page double spaced rhetorical analysis of Super Size Me

November 16: Group Presentations -- rough drafts due for class discussion

Discuss pages 252 to 255 in CDA

Group Checklist Due (see page 251 in CDA)

Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 12
November 28: No Class -- Conference to discuss presentations
November 30: No Class -- Conference to discuss presentations
Week 13
December 4: Group Presentation Workshop in Walker 134 from 5 to 8 p.m.
December 5: No Class -- Group Presentations in Walker 134 from 5 to 11 p.m.
December 7: Portfolio Workshop and Instructor Evaluation

Week 14
December 12: No Class -- Conference to discuss portfolio and final grades
December 14: No Class -- Portfolio due by 5 p.m.

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