Revisions: Rhetoric in Oral, Written, and Visual Communication

UN2001 R06  
Fall 2008  
MWF 1:05—1:55, Walker 143

Ethan T. Jordan  
Office: Walker 142, office hours held in CCLI (first floor of Walker)  
Office phone: 487-3273, (CCLI 487-2582)  
Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 11:40-1:00 pm (please make an appointment)  
E-mail: etjordan@mtu.edu (usually checked every other day)  
Website: www.hu.mtu.edu/~etjordan

Textbooks and Required Materials:  

You will also need a three-ring binder for your final portfolio assignment.

Course Description:  
Welcome to Revisions: Rhetoric in Written, Oral and Visual Communication. This course is developed to strengthen students’ abilities in critical thinking, analysis, production, and communication. Whether we are analyzing already-produced texts or creating our own, we will view them from a rhetorical and critical perspective. In addition to learning and applying rhetorical principles, this course will ask you to develop interesting and challenging questions for independent research. We will then use these questions in order to produce texts that effectively demonstrate our positions using elements of visual, written, and oral communication.

Grading Policy:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Rhetorical Analyses</td>
<td>A 100-93.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project 1</td>
<td>AB 92.99-88.0</td>
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<td>Project 2</td>
<td>B 87.99-80.0</td>
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<td>Project 3</td>
<td>BC 79.99-72.0</td>
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<td>Final Portfolio</td>
<td>C 71.99-66.0</td>
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<td>Critical and Social Engagement</td>
<td>CD 65.99-58.0</td>
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<td>D 57.99-51.0</td>
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<td>F 50.99</td>
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(You must complete all assignments to receive a passing grade in this course.)

Final Portfolio Assignment:
Please remember to keep all of your work, including drafts and final projects. These items will make up your final portfolio. Also, please *keep separate electronic files of all of your work by naming each draft a different filename*. This will help you produce a final portfolio that includes all of the necessary pieces from the semester. It is a good idea to email any work you complete to yourself, so that you have a back-up electronic file.

**Attendance Policy:**
If you are not in class, you are not able to effectively participate, which will affect your work and your critical and social engagement. Students are permitted to miss **two classes** per semester; subsequent absences will cause your grade to drop significantly. Any student missing more than **eight days** of class will not receive a passing grade for the course. No absences will be excused without notification from the Dean of Students (906.487.2212, studentaffairs@mtu.edu). Three late days will equal an absence. We will discuss our class tardiness policy together. What should our tardiness policy be?

**Students are responsible for any work missed in class.** Please contact a classmate in order to find out what was covered in class and any assignments you may have missed. (You will want to get a classmate’s e-mail or phone number immediately.)

**Classroom Policies:**
We will discuss together in class what will cause disruptions to our classroom environment. What policies can we put into place that will make sure we maintain respect for one another during class discussions and other work throughout the semester? (Think about how late is “late,” laptops, iPods, food, drinks, raising hands, group work, etc.)

**I will not accept any formal assignments through e-mail.** Please turn in hard copies of all assignments. Please see me if you will have difficulties printing your work for class this semester.

**Late work will not be accepted** more than one class day after the assignment is due.

**No incomplete grades will be given for this course.**

**MTU 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 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 Policy on Discrimination and Harassment:**
Michigan Tech 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 a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head or the Affirmative Action Office, at 487-3310.
Course Calendar
(I reserve the right to revise the syllabus and/or course schedule to better serve student needs.)

Week 1
9/3 Introduction to Rhetorical Analysis
For next class: Read syllabus, Read pages 23-29, 34-47 (from Chapters 1+2) in cda

Week 2
9/8 Syllabus Review, intro to textbook
For next class: Find your own text for analysis, read pages 67-76 (from Chapter 3) in cda
9/10 Rhetorical Analysis (Part 1) purpose, context, audience
For next class: Find your own text for analysis and bring it to class, read pages 80-96 (from Chapter 4) in cda
9/12 Rhetorical Analysis (Part 2) strategies, medium, arrangement
For next class: Write a rhetorical analysis of your chosen text (see pages 320-323 for an example)

Week 3
9/15 Introduction to Project 1: Elements of Visual Communication, topic development
For next class: Read pages 272-311 (from Chapter 9)
9/17 Elements of Visual Communication
For next class: Look over poster examples (on web and in cda Chapter 10)
9/19 Ethos, Logos, and Pathos in Posters
For next class: Read pages 347-379, (from Chapter 11) in cda

Week 4
9/22 Practicing Photography
For next class: read "Stickball" from website, look at examples in Chapter 11
9/24 Documentary Photography, or Visual Essays
For next class: Design Plan for Project 1 - how can you find answers to your research question visually? Read pages 52-54 and 104 in cda.
9/26 Group Work with Project 1 Design Plans
For next class: Revise Design Plan based on feedback, complete Initial Draft of Project 1

Week 5
9/29 Group responses to Initial Drafts (groups 1 and 2)
For next class: Revision Plan for Next Draft
10/1 Group responses to Initial Drafts (groups 3 and 4)
For next class: Revision Plan for Next Draft
10/3 Group responses to Initial Drafts (groups 5 and 6)
For next class: Final Draft of Project 1

Week 6
10/6 Introduction to Project 2, Elements of Written Communication
For next class: Write a reflection on Project 1
10/8 Rhetorical Analysis of a (Primarily) Written Text
For next class: Read pages 188-212 (from Chapter 7) in cda
10/10 Elements of Written Communication
For next class: Essay readings to be assigned...

Week 7
10/13 The Essay
For next class: finalize your topic and research question
10/15 Research Strategies Session, Design Plan Development for Project 2
For next class: Design Plan for Project 2 - how can you find answers to your question through writing? (Review pages 52-54 in cda.)

10/17 No Class – work on research, drafts

Week 8

10/20 Documentation Workshop, Group Work with Design Plans

10/22 Fine Tuning Drafts
For next class: Bring works in progress to class

10/24 Proofreading Techniques
For next class: Complete Initial Draft of Project 2

Week 9

10/27 Group responses to Initial Drafts (groups 1 and 2)
For next class: Revision Plan for Next Draft

10/29 Group responses to Initial Drafts (groups 3 and 4)
For next class: Revision Plan for Next Draft

10/31 Group responses to Initial Drafts (groups 5 and 6)
For next class: Revision Plan for Next Draft

Week 10

11/3 Panic Session for Final Drafts
For next class: Complete your project.

11/5 Turning in your final drafts
For next class: Write a reflection on your project.

11/7 Introduction to Project 3: Elements of Oral Communication
For next class: Read pages 225-233, 238-245, 251-255 (from Chapter 8) in cda

Week 11

11/10 Oral Texts

11/12 Rhetorical Analysis of an Oral Text
For next class: Complete Rhetorical Analysis assignment

11/14 Design Plan Development for Project 3
For next class: Design Plan for Project 3 - how can you present your research orally? (Review pages page 251 in cda.)

Week 12

11/17 Group Work With Project 3 Design Plans
For next class: download Audacity and play around with it

11/19 Audacity Workshop

11/21 More Audacity?/Creating Audio Compositions

Week 13

12/1 Oral Presentations, Part 1/3
12/3 Oral Presentations, Part 2/3
12/5 Oral Presentations, Part 3/3

Week 14

12/8 Overflow from Oral Presentations?, Reflection on Project 3
For next class: Review Portfolio Requirements

12/10 Portfolio Project
For next class: Write your Reflective Letter for your portfolio

12/12 Portfolios Collected at the Start of Class