COURSE DESCRIPTION

Revisions is a general education requirement designed to offer you the opportunity to broaden your worldview, and to equip you with the necessary tools to communicate effectively in written, visual, and oral modes. At the end of the semester you will be better prepared to communicate persuasively, taking into account the audience, purpose, and context of a given communicative situation. You will also learn fancy and impressive terms like multimodality, rhetorical analysis, ethos, pathos, and logos.

COURSE OVERVIEW

We will be taking a cultural studies approach to this class. What does that mean? It means we'll read, analyze, and respond to texts about popular culture, political, and social issues. We'll cover a variety of readings from our text, Reading Cultures. We will watch and analyze movie and YouTube clips, advertising images, and other pop culture artifacts. The Non-Designer's Design Book will be our resource for learning principles of good visual design. You will present your work to the class frequently, and you will work in groups frequently.

Throughout the semester, we will explore what it means to engage in composition as a process. Your three major assignments will require brainstorming, reflective pre-writing, multiple drafts, peer reviews, and revision.
ASSIGNMENTS & ACTIVITIES

When I assign your coursework, I will provide you with detailed instructions and, in some cases, a rubric. I will explain all assignments in class and then I will give you a chance to ask questions. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns regarding any of your assignments. Also, I reserve the right to revise the syllabus and/or course schedule to better serve student needs.

- **This I Believe** – Due 2/17
- **Visual Argument** (Group Assignment) – Due 3/19
- **Research Project** – Draft Due 4/9
  - Presentations beginning 4/21
- **Student Led Discussion** - Teams of two will lead one 20-minute class discussion on an assigned reading. You will sign-up for your discussion date during the second week of class.
- **Reading Responses** – Short (500 word), typed responses will be due with most readings. We will also use your responses to generate class discussion and to practice peer review and revision.
- **Portfolio** – Due Friday, April 24th by 5 p.m.
  - You must save all work you produce in this class including rough, intermediate and final drafts, major and minor assignments, peer reviews, notes, and other coursework.
- **In-class discussions and informal presentations** – Expect to participate in discussions and present your work frequently.

REQUIRED TEXTS & MATERIALS


One 3-ring binder for your portfolio
GRADES

YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL ASSIGNMENTS TO RECEIVE A PASSING GRADE.

Your grade will be determined as follows:

- 5% Portfolio
- 10% Student Led Discussion
- 10% Reading Responses
- 15% Visual Argument
- 20% This I Believe
- 20% Research Project
- 20% Participation/Attendance

Grading System

- A  93% +
- AB 88-92%
- B  82-87%
- BC 76-81%
- C  70-75%
- CD 65-69%
- D  60-64%
- F  59% -

Late Assignments

I will not accept assignments made late by procrastination, laziness, or apathy. That being said, if you are concerned about completing a given assignment on time for valid personal reasons, let me know as far ahead of the due date as possible so that we can talk about making other arrangements.

COURSE POLICIES

Absences: I will grant you three unexcused absences; subsequent missed classes will affect grade.

Behavioral Standards: Please behave as an adult in my classroom. I hope I don’t have to spell that out for you at this point. If you act as children, I will treat you as such and the class will become highly punitive in nature.
Instructor Pet Peeves: I do not want to see or hear any of the myriad electronic devices you may own. Please see me if you have concerns regarding this policy.

Do not chew gum in class and do not make a habit of bringing food to class. Feel free to imbibe tasty beverages, but quietly.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic regulations and procedures are governed by University policy. Academic dishonesty cases will be handled in accordance the University’s policies. If you have a disability that could affect your performance in this class or that requires an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please see me as soon as possible so that we can make appropriate arrangements. The Affirmative Action Office has asked that you be made aware of the following:

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

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