Course Syllabus

Instructor: Kevin Hodur
Section R07, Summer 2009
Class: MTWR- 11.00am-12.30pm
Office Hours: MW 9.30am-11.00am
Contact: kwhodur@mtu.edu

Required Texts:

Course Overview:
Your goal in Revisions is to respond to ideas and communicate effectively using the three main communication modes... visual, oral, and written communication. This is essential for any field. Once you are in your career, it is invaluable that you are listened to and respected. Effective communication skills can make all the difference in getting your project or idea approved and a fantastic idea being reduced to the circular file. The ideas of rhetoric and effective argument form the core of this course.

Teaching Approach:
To be a better communicator, you need to practice communication. Just like you don’t become an excellent musician or a talented shooting guard just by showing up for the concert/game time, you can’t be an excellent writer or speaker without practice. Yes you can write, yes you can speak. It’s a matter of getting up in an informal environment and doing it, practicing those skills, becoming adept at making effective arguments. That is this course. But you have to work in practice, and I expect you to show up here and contribute.

Assignments:
There are three major assignments that make up the core of this course. While they vary in length and point value, they should receive the utmost attention. There are other assignments sprinkled throughout the term, though, that should receive your full effort as well. Please remember that you must complete all assignments in order to receive a passing grade for this course.

Grading & Revising:
The grading process does not stop once I grade your work and hand it back to you. Regardless of the grade, if you revise and improve your work you will receive a better grade on that individual assignment. This entire class is about continually revising: your writing, your ideas, your beliefs.

Other Course Policies:
One of the main modes of this class is discussion, and that’s a bit hard to do when you’re not here. Attendance is essential. You are permitted three unexcused absences without any effect on your participation grade. Use them as you wish, though remember that if you miss an in-class assignment, you cannot make it up. Subsequent absences will have a detrimental impact on your Presence grade. I do not accept late work. This is to be fair to all of us: you, me, and your classmates. I am only grading assignments at one time. Having two assignments due splits your attention.

E-Mail Policy:
Please do not send me assignments via e-mail... I will not accept them. Allow at least 48 hours for an e-mail response to questions or comments.

Points Breakdown:
35% - Presence (attendance, small graded assignments, group assignments, participation)
15% - Assignment #1
15% - Assignment #2
15% - Assignment #3
20% - Other Small Assignments & Group Work
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 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, Associate Dean of Students (7-2212). For other concern about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (7-3310).

Course Schedule:

Week One: Syllabus, Introductions, Assumptions, Assign #1 assigned, Read p1-41, Small Assign 1, Film

Week Two: Discuss Film, Peer Evaluation, Assign #1 (hand-in RD), Read p45-58, Small Assign 2


Week Four: Discuss News, Peer Evaluation, Assign #2 (hand-in RD), Read p78-99, Small Assign 4

Week Five: Final Draft Assign #2 Due, Presentations, Read p102-139, Reconsider Assign #1, Assign #3 assigned, Small Assign 5

Week Six: What is research?, Read (skim) p469-581, Workshop, Discuss p369-466, Peer Evaluation, Assign #3 (hand-in RD)

Week Seven: Course Wrap-up, Workshop, Presentations, Final Draft, Assign #3 Due

I reserve the right to change the course syllabus at any time. If you have any questions regarding course policies procedures, assignments, etc., please ask either myself or a classmate. I am available during my listed office hours and via e-mail.