Language has then to be seen as a persistent kind of creation and re-creation; a dynamic presence and a constant regenerative process
"Raymond Williams

Course Description

One of four core classes required of all students by the University's General Education Curriculum, Revisions is designed to help you develop and strengthen your oral, written and visual communication skills. Throughout the semester we will examine and create a variety of texts to gain better understanding of productive communication for differing contexts and audiences. The course requires extensive student participation in the form of individual writing assignments, group projects/presentations, and in-class discussion. Together we will consider the rhetorical force behind the stories we tell, histories we’ve created and the images that seem to shape our understanding in the world.

We will...

• Learn a rhetorical process for analyzing and producing texts using written, visual and oral communication
• Revise, that is, we will learn writing as a process which means extensive practice in revising written, visual and oral communication
• Learn how to conduct, communicate and document research for a substantive piece of argumentative communication
• Recognize how the processes of reflection and invention are useful in developing communications
• Conduct, communicate and document research toward a substantive piece of argumentative communication

Required Texts


Absences

You are permitted two unexcused absences each semester. Realizing that participation is essential to everyone’s learning and crucial to your success in the course, absences will negatively impact your grade. I reserve the right to count tardiness as absence. If you do miss more than two classes (unexcused) 10 points per day will be deducted from your total score.
Due Dates, Deadlines & Late Work

I consider your work in this course to be your professional contribution as a student at Michigan Tech. The required assignments are process-driven and include a variety of stages and revisions. If your work is submitted late the opportunity for revision is minimal and will directly affect your overall score for the class.

Assignments & Assessment Portfolio & Grading

Throughout the semester you will be asked to complete a variety of projects culminating in a final group project/presentation. Each assignment is intended to develop your oral, written and visual communication skills for differing audiences and within different contexts.

A portfolio of the work you did in this class is required at the end of the semester. Keep copies of all the work you do, and all drafts of that work. Because of the nature of this portfolio you MUST save ALL of your drafts, assignments, peer reviews, group work, notes, papers, etc. Missing information can result in more work for you and will negatively impact your grade. More specific information concerning the portfolio will be addressed in a separate handout.

You must finish all assignments and turn in a complete portfolio to fulfill the requirements of this class.

Pop-Cultural Sighting (Contemporary Issue 3 Parts) 45 points
10 Reflective Essays/Responses (Blackboard) 30 points
This I Believe Project (5 Parts) 50 points
Product Project (Group) 90 points
Portfolio 50 points
Participation 60 points

Total Points: 325

Grading Scale

325-308 A
307-292 AB
291-273 B
272-260 BC
259-243 C
242-227 CD
226-211 D
210-0 F

Office Hours & Email Policies

If my listed office hours do not fit with your schedule and you would like to meet please email me at lnwatrou@mtu.edu.

If you send me an email please allow 24 hours for a response. Include in the subject of your email our course number, your last name and a short subject (i.e. UN2001_Watrous_Assignment Questions).

Participation

Given that the goal of the class is to enhance your communication skills, your participation is necessary. Earning participation points is fairly simple: Come to class, contribute constructively to class discussions, engage productively in peer reviews, do your best for your group, etc. If you are not in class, you are not participating, so poor attendance will affect your participation grade as well as your overall performance in the class. (See ‘Absences’ section of this syllabus for further detail concerning attendance policy and absence consequences.)
Classroom Conduct

Welcome to Revisions! Throughout the semester we will encounter and openly discuss a variety of subjects that may be controversial. Please be kind, respectful, considerate, and charitable to your classmates as engage in dialogue together.

MTU 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 the Dean of Students Office at 487-2212. For concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, departmental head or the Affirmative Action Office at 487-3310.

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 are dishonest and 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.
Week 1
(M: 1/11) ~ Welcome, Syllabus, Course Requirements
(W: 1/13) ~ Havel, “A Word About Words” (Legos)
(F: 1/15) ~ Reading Culture 1-6, Considerations of Rhetoric

Week 2
(M: 1/18) ~ No Class Martin Luther King Jr Day
(W: 1/20) ~ Propaganda 9-46, Contemporary Issue Assignment Explanation/Sign Up
(F: 1/22) ~ Ewen Reading (on Blackboard)

Week 3
(M: 1/25) ~ Movie
(W: 1/27) ~ Draft 1 Written Contemporary Issue DUE Reading Culture 13-16
(F: 1/29) ~ Reading Culture 21-23

Week 4
(M: 2/1) ~ Propaganda 71-107
(W: 2/3) ~ Oral Presentation Guidelines Do's and Don'ts
(F: 2/5) ~ No Class Winter Carnival

Week 5
(M: 2/8) ~ Draft 2 Written Contemporary Issue (Peer Reviews)
(W: 2/10) ~ Presentations
(F: 2/12) ~ Presentations

Week 6
(M: 2/15) ~ Presentations
(W: 2/17) ~ Reading Culture 92-93, This I Believe Assignment Explanation
(F: 2/19) ~ Reading Culture 211-218

Week 7
(M: 2/22) ~ Movie
(W: 2/24) ~ Draft 1 This I Believe Written Due. Readings TBD
(F: 2/26) ~ Readings TBD

Week 8
(M: 3/1) ~ Nondesigners Chapters 1 & 2
(W: 3/3) ~ Nondesigners Chapters 3 & 4
(F: 3/5) ~ Draft 2 This I Believe Written Due. Nondesigners Chapters 5 & 6, DESIGN QUIZ

Week 9
No Class Spring Break

Week 10
(M: 3/15) ~ This I Believe Visual Due, Oral Presentations
(W: 3/17) ~ Presentations
(F: 3/19) ~ Presentations—This I Believe Final Written Due

Note: I reserve the right to revise the syllabus and/or course schedule to better serve student needs.
| Week 11 | (M: 3/22) ~ *Reading Culture* 344-346, 350-357  
(W: 3/24) ~ *Reading Culture* 319-324- Explanation of Product Project (Group Assignments)  
(F: 3/26) ~ Group Work Day |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 12 | (M: 3/29) ~ Product Project Proposals Due  
(W: 3/31) ~ Narrative Readings TBD  
(F: 4/2) ~ *Reading Culture* 493-496, PDF Reading TBD (on Blackboard) |
| Week 13 | (M: 4/5) ~ Draft 1 Written Product Project Due, Peer Review/Work Day  
(W: 4/7) ~ Discussion of Wartime Words and Propaganda--Movie  
(F: 4/9) ~ Movie |
| Week 14 | (M: 4/12) ~ Presentations  
(W: 4/14) ~ Presentations  
(F: 4/16) ~ Presentations |
| Week 15 | (M: 4/19) Booth, (Reading on Blackboard) “The Rhetoric of Rhetoric”  
(W: 4/21) TBD  
(F: 4/23) Class Wrap Up/Review—Attendance REQUIRED |
| Week 16: Final Exam Week | (M: 4/26) Final Written Product Paper Due, Digital Portfolios Due  
(W: 4/28)  
(F: 4/30) |

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