Beth Flynn  
HU5001, Proseminar in Rhetoric and Technical Communication  
Walker, 139  
M, 1:05-1:50 p.m.  
Fall, 2010  
Office: 310 Walker  
Office phone: 487-3227  
E-mail: efynn@mtu.edu  
Office Hours: M, 2-3, T.R 12:30-2:00 and by appointment

Texts:

Moore, Cindy and Hildey Miller. A Guide to Professional Development for Graduate Students in English.  


Student to Student: A Supplement to the RTC Handbook and Graduate Student Professional Development Guides. 2009.

Student to Student 2008-2009: A Supplement to the RTC handbook and Graduate Student Professional Development Guides. 2009.

Student to Student 2009-2010: A Supplement to the RTC Handbook and Graduate Student Professional Development Guides. 2010.

Supplies:

You'll need a file folder to hold your portfolio of responses.

Purpose:

The course is described in the catalog as follows:

An introduction to the scholarly issues, goals, and methods across the disciplinary areas represented in the Rhetoric and Technical Communication Program.

Writing Assignments:

Response Journal:

For selected readings indicated on the syllabus, you should submit response statements of at least one double-spaced page.

Portfolio Analysis

Please prepare a portfolio analysis (at least a page long) that provides a commentary on responses. What are some strengths of your performance on these assignments? What are some limitations?

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. Much of the course involves conversation about course readings. If you miss those conversations, you will have missed a good deal of the course content. More than three unexcused absences will affect your grade.

Grades:

Your grade will be based on the following:
Portfolio (responses) 100%

Other:

MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Mellon, Dean of Students (7-2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head or chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (7-3310).

It may be necessary to alter the syllabus as the semester proceeds in order to better meet the instructional needs of the class.

Plagiarism—using the ideas or words of others without acknowledging the source—is unethical and a violation of University policy. Plagiarism cases will be handled by the Dean of Students. Some consequences of plagiarism could be failure of a paper or course. The University has subscribed to an anti-plagiarism service that can detect plagiarized material. If you have questions about the proper way to cite the ideas of someone else, please see me.

MTU strives to offer equal opportunity to all of its employees, students, applicants for employment, and applicants for admission without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, height, weight, mental status, disabled veteran status, veteran status, arrest record, or disability. See http://www.asm.mtu.edu/admin/boc/policy/ch3p7.htm. The Affirmative Action Office (commonly called the Affirmative Action Office, or AA) facilitates Michigan Tech's development of an environment that is free from prejudicial discrimination or harassment and that is conducive to learning and individual growth for all campus members and visitors. Contact the Affirmative Action Office, Room 207, Administration Building, Phone: 906-487-3310, Fax: 906-487-2842; e-mail Sherry Kauppi, Director, for more information.

Academic Integrity: http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic-integrity.html
Affirmative Action: http://www.asm.mtu.edu/aao/
Disability Services: http://www.asm.mtu.edu/urp/studenthandbook/student_services.html#disability

Please turn off cell phones and laptops before class begins.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 (August 30)

M Introduction. RTC Handbook, 1.1-5.1. Response # 1 due. Open response, but note any problems or errors.

Week 2 (Sept. 6)

M Labor Day

Week 3 (Sept. 13)


Week 4 (Sept. 20)

M RTC Faculty. Response # 3 due. Read websites, etc. beforehand and comment on them.
Week 5 (Sept. 27)
M RTC Faculty. Response # 4 due.

Week 6 (Oct. 4)
M RTC Faculty. Response # 5 due.

Week 7 (Oct. 11)

Week 8 (Oct. 18)

Week 9 (Oct. 25)
M Moore and Miller, "Introduction," Chaps. 1 and 2. Response # 8 due. Find a job ad that interests you and explain why it interests you. What jobs have you had in the past? How did you feel about them? You could discuss how you feel about "low residency programs" (p. 2), or your career goals. You could also discuss what streams you plan to pursue or what examination options appeal to you.

Week 10 (Nov. 1)
M Semenza. Intro., Chaps. 1-2. Response # 9 due. Open response, but you could discuss past academic successes or challenges, attitudes toward graduate student unionization, your sense of the "culture" of our department, and your plan for completion of your degree.

Week 11 (Nov. 8)
M Semenza. Chaps, 3-4. Response # 10 due. Bring in a current CV. Open response, but you could describe your work routines (or your ideas for changing them), your reaction to Semenza's suggestions for working "eight days a week, 365 days a year," and the way you intend to integrate family, relaxation, exercise, and hobbies into your work routine. You could also discuss the courses you are now taking or plan to take in relation to your career goals or your plan for completing the degree.

Week 12 (Nov. 15)
M Semenza. Chaps. 5-6. Response # 11 due. Bring in a research paper you have written and comment on its strengths and limitations in relation to Semenza's suggestions in Chapter 5. Optional: bring in a syllabus if you are teaching and comment on its strengths and limitations. Bring in another student's teaching portfolio and explain it to the class.

Week 13 (Nov. 29)
M Semenza. Chaps. 7-8. Response # 12 due. For MS students: bring in an example of a MS project or thesis and comment on it. For PhD students: bring in a PhD dissertation and comment on it.

Week 14 (Dec. 6)