Composition – Oral, Written, and Visual

Instructor: Shampa Bhattacharyya
E-mail: shampab@mtu.edu
Class website: http://composition.wordpress.com/
Classroom: Fisher Hall, No: 0230
Class Schedule: M, W, F: 10:05-10:55 a.m.

Office Location: 343 Walker
Office Phone: 906-487-72613
Office Hours: Friday 11:30-12:30 and by appointment

Required Materials

• Lunsford, Andrea and John Ruszkiewicz. Everything’s An Argument. 5th ed.
• Booth, Colomb, Williams. The Craft of Research, 3rd ed.

Course Description & Goals

During this course, students are expected...

• to understand and experience the composing process in written, visual, and oral communication.
• to acquire extensive practice in revising written, visual, and oral communication.
• to learn how to enhance/complement their writing with visual and oral forms of communication.
• to experience a range of written, visual, and oral genres and understand how a writer’s purpose and sense of audience shape these genres.
• to experience both the personal and social/collaborative dimensions of learning and communicating.
• to acquire practice in rhetorical analysis and critical reasoning.
• to learn how to conduct, communicate, and document research for a substantial piece of argumentative writing.

Course Overview

Read, Write, Reflect. The idea of this course is to help you perform as a communicator in different contexts of your professional and academic life. Using rhetoric as a tool for persuasive communication you’ll draft class projects that will require you to explore rhetorical techniques learnt in the class. Keep in mind that the more you try to fit in rhetorical principles in varied communicative settings (and in class project work), more confident you will become. Use this course as a platform to fix any communication error that takes place in your daily surroundings. You need to have an open mind to grasp the essence of this course.
At the end of the course you will be able to:

- perform appropriate audience analysis in a complex professional/communicative settings
- understand the difference between writing and composition
- compose multimodal composition
- read and interpret visual images
- critically analyze written, oral, and visual communication

Class Policies

Assignments

The assignments you do in this class will ask you to step through multiple drafts and revisions. You are required to submit all drafts on time to receive a passing grade. I will not accept late assignments. If you are absent, you are responsible for finding out what you missed in class. Please do not ask me what you missed in class. Get to know another student in the class so you can easily find out what you missed.

I expect to see your best work. This means that all take home assignments should be completed on time and all work must be proofread. There may be quizzes on the readings or you may be asked to reflect on assignments throughout the semester.

Regarding the Syllabus

I reserve the right to change this syllabus to meet the needs of the class. Updated syllabus, assignments/project due dates will be posted on the class web site. Make sure you check this web site frequently.

Regarding my Pet Peeves

No buzzing/beeping. That includes cell phones, ipods, or any other electronic device that I can’t think of right now. If anything you are carrying goes off or buzzes or beeps in class you will be marked absent for the day. If you have an emergency you can contact me prior to class. You can use a laptop in class if I give you permission to do so. Do not block your face with your laptop screen.

Attendance

Each person is allowed THREE absences per semester before their grade will be affected. You must have a doctor’s note or a University excused absence in order to be considered excused from class. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Presence and Participation

Because this is a communication course, participation and attendance are vital. Attendance and presence are not the same and I expect both. You need to be in class physically and mentally. Everyone is to participate and do so willingly. You will be earning participation points EVERY class period. These will significantly affect your grade.
Respectfulness

Because this course relies heavily on your involvement, it is important for us to have an environment where everyone can be heard without being ridiculed or harassed. Please note, it is my definition of respectfulness that will influence your grade. It is important to understand that we need to challenge ideas thoughtfully and openly while still being respectful to one another and to myself. Your respectfulness will affect your grade and so does your participation.

Preparedness

We all learn from each other in this class. Class discussion revolves around the work you bring to each day of class. It is imperative that you come to class prepared with that day’s assignment, including reading the readings. If you don’t bring your best work to class then no one will benefit.
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 +1487-2212*487-2212.

For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your adviser, department head or the Affirmative Action Office, at +1487-3310*487-3310

Academic Integrity:
http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html

Affirmative Action: http://www.admin.mtu.edu/aap/

Disability Services:
http://www.admin.mtu.edu/urel/studenthandbook/student_services.html/disability

**Grading System**

I will assess you in two ways – your daily performance and participation (weekly writings, blogs, course activities, attendance, participation in class discussion, generous and collegial relations with other participants, etc.) and the quality and timeliness of your course project work (proposals, presentations, and final papers).

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<th>Grading Parameter</th>
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<td>Projects</td>
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<td>Blog posts</td>
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<td>Class Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation &amp; Social Practices</td>
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By "social practices" I mean your contributions and active listening during class discussions, your peer review activities, group activities, and homework assignments, as well as your professionalism, and commitment to submitting timely and complete work. See Policies section (http://composition.wordpress.com/class-policies/).

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<th>Grade</th>
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<td>AB</td>
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(I) No incomplete grades will be given for this course.