SYLLABUS
Composition – Spring 2011
Tuesday and Thursday: 12:35-1:50
Classroom – Walker 143
Class page: http://composition2011.wordpress.com
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

Overview: Read, Write, Reflect. The idea of this course is to help you perform as a communicator in various 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 and critical thinking skills learned in the class. Keep in mind that the more you try to fit in rhetorical principles in varied communicative settings, 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.

Course Description:

During this course, students are expected to:

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

Course Objective:

At the end of the course you should be able to:

⇒ Perform appropriate audience analysis in a complex professional/communicative setting(s).
⇒ Understand the difference between writing and composition
⇒ Compose multimodal composition
⇒ Read and interpret visual images
⇒ Critically analyze written, oral, and visual communication

REQUIRED TEXT

⇒ Booth, Colomb, Williams. The Craft of Research, Second Edition [Online version posted on to the Blackboard]
PROJECTS

Project 1: Research Project
Project 2: Audio-visual Rhetoric
Project 3: Reflection Paper

Note: Each project would include multiple drafts, presentations, and homework assignments. You must, therefore, save everything you do in this class along the way: all drafts, peer reviews, speech notes, group work materials, handouts, etc. Save everything! Don’t throw anything away! This means you will need to keep separate electronic files of all of your work by naming each draft a different file name. This will help you produce a portfolio analysis at the end of the semester.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

I reserve the right to change this syllabus to meet the needs of the class.

General Rules:

I will assess you in two ways – your daily performance/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). However, irrespective of your quality of work, any unprofessional behavior would affect your overall grade.

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.

In addition, I will not accept assignments that are emailed to me, unless otherwise noted.

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.

Attendance
Each person is allowed THREE unexcused absences per semester; otherwise your grade will be affected. You must have a doctor’s note or the University excused absence in order to be considered for elongated absence from the 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. This 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.

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.

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.

If you need to send me an email, only do so from your MTU account.

Grade Breakup:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Parameter</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments [also include take-home quizzes, blog posts]</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Presentations</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Presentations</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Discussions/Participations &amp; Social Practices</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
By “social practices” I mean your contributions and active listening during class discussions, peer review activities, and group activities, as well as your professionalism, and commitment to submitting timely and complete work.

Any disrespectful behavior including rude comments targeted towards the instructor or other members of the class would affect your overall grade. Any personal discussions (laughing/mumbling), cell phone usage should be considered as violation of course policy.

**Grade Points:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>930-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>880-929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>830-879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>780-829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>730-779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD</td>
<td>680-729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>600-679</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>599 and below</td>
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*(I)*  
No incomplete grades will be given for this course.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Class Schedule is posted here: http://composition2011.wordpress.com/calendar

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor Name:</th>
<th>Shampa Bhattacharyya</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E-mail:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shampab@mtu.edu">shampab@mtu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Location:</td>
<td>343 Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Phone:</td>
<td>(906) 487 2613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Hours:</td>
<td>Monday 2:30-3:30 and by appointment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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

**Affirmative Action:**
http://www.aao.mtu.edu/aao/

**Disability Services:**
http://www.admin.mtu.edu/rel/studenthandbook/student_services.html#disability

**Equal Opportunity Statement:**
# Class Schedule

## Week 1:

**T Jan-11**

*Course Introduction*

**Th Jan-13**

- Citation styles: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/owjprint/747/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/owjprint/747/)
- Annotated Bib: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/514/03/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/514/03/)
- Discussion on Assignment 1: Annotated Bib

## Week 2

**T Jan-18**

- [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/625/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/625/01/) [make sure you download and read the power point presentation]
- [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/)

**Assignment 1: Annotated Bibliography due**

**Th Jan-20**

- Reading due from Craft of Research (CR): pages xi-3 and Chapters 1, 7 [group presentation]
- In class activity: Rhetorical Analysis exercise

## Week 3

**T Jan-25**

**Assignment 2: Rhetorical Analysis presentation**

**Th Jan-27**

- Reading due Chapters 2 and 8

*Composition*  
*Spring 2011*
In class activity: argumentative writing

Assignment 2: Rhetorical Analysis final paper due Saturday end of the day.

Week 4

T Feb-1

- Reading due: Chapters 3 and 4 [group presentation]
- Reading due: Chapter 5 and 6 [group presentation]

Th Feb-3

- Reading due Chapters 9 and 10 [group presentation]
- Reading due Chapters 11 and 14 [group presentation]
- Discussion on Toulmin Analysis

Week 5

T Feb-8

- Library Visit!!!
- Project Proposal due: Friday end of the day

Th Feb-10

Winter Carnival Recess!!!

Week 6

T Feb-15

Research Project draft I due

Th Feb-17

Reading due Chapters 13 and 16

Week 7

T Feb-22

Research Project draft II presentation

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Th Feb-24

- Thinking in Design: Blog post due: Visual Rhetoric [Reading on Blackboard] [individual presentation]
- Blog post due: Chapter 15 from Craft of Research
- Update: Research project final paper

Week 8

T Mar-1

- Reading TBA: Multimodal composition
- Robin William's C.R.A.P. principle (reading on Blackboard) [individual presentation]

Th Mar-3

Research project final paper and reflection paper due Saturday end of the day.

- Audio-visual rhetoric [individual presentation]
- Visual Thinking: [www.asis.org/Chapters/spasis/events/20010621b.ppt] [individual presentation]

Week 9

Spring Break!!!

Week 10

T Mar-15
Audio-Visual Rhetoric project proposal and presentation due

Th Mar-17
Audio-Visual Rhetoric project presentation

Week 11

T Mar 22
Reading TBA: Audio-visual rhetoric
Th Mar-24
Workshop Day: Audio-Visual Rhetoric project

**Week 12**

T Mar 29
Grammar Day

Th Mar 31
Grammar Day

**Week 13**

T Apr 5
project 2 final presentation

Th Apr 7
project 2 final presentation

*Project 2 and reflection paper due Saturday end of the day.*

**Week 14**

T Apr 12
Revision [in class activity]

Th Apr 14
Revision [in class activity]

**Week 15**

T Apr 19
Portfolio Submission

Th Apr 21
Portfolio Analysis Due

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