Composition [Written, Oral & Visual]
UN 2001 – Section R10 – Summer 2011 Track B
Monday – Thursday 8:05 am to 9:20 am in Walker 144

Who Teaches This Class Anyway? (Instructor Information)
Luke Palosaari, Graduate Teaching Instructor in the Humanities Department
Room 332 Walker Fine Arts & Humanities Center
Office Hours Monday – Thursday 9:30 am to 2 pm, (but only by appointment)
lapalosa@mtu.edu or (906) 487 – 3252 <I rarely answer this #>

What Am I Here To Learn? (Course Description and Goals)
The purpose of this class will be to learn how to apply principles of rhetoric to improve the student’s ability to communicate in a range of mediums. Specifically over the course of this class, we will explore how to support an argument in written, oral and visual formats by investigating a topic of the student’s choosing. The student will be expected to perform original research to produce a research paper and a poster for presentation, both of which will be expected to support an argument that the student is trying to make about the topic they chose.
By the end of this course, it is the instructor’s goal to help the student to develop a strong grasp of the following concepts:
• understand the process necessary to compose in written, oral and visual mediums
• be able to create, produce and follow a design plan for a form of communication
• know how to apply various rhetorical concepts like the three rhetorical appeals or the five canons of rhetoric to their own communications
• have the ability to analyze messages in various mediums to understand how rhetorical concepts are being applied to sway the message’s audience
• work in peer teams to review, critique and evaluate one another’s work
• write a final reflection that discusses your work in the class
• be able to reflect thoughtfully and critically to a range of objects
• feel comfortable talking about your opinion in a classroom setting

What Tools Do I Need/Have? (Course Resources)
In addition to time in the classroom, students will have access to and be expected to take advantage of a number of other resources from class websites, pdfs, textbooks and the JR Van Pelt Library.

Course Website: Blackboard <http://www.courses.mtu.edu>

Required Texts:

Additional Websites:
Silva Rhetoricae <http://rhetoric.bvu.edu>
TED <http://www.ted.com>
Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>
American Rhetoric <http://www.americanrhetoric.com>
Fine Print (Class Policies)
I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THIS SYLLABUS TO SUIT THE NEEDS OF THE CLASS

Attendance
Participation with in-class discussion is an expected portion of this class and the course goals. One of the primary ways to earn experience points to complete this course is to be sure to BE IN CLASS. However, just attending class in itself will not suffice, you must engage in the days discussion to receive full points possible. If you know ahead of time that you will NOT be able to attend class, arrangements can be made to compensate for the loss of points possible for that day.

Respect for Fellow Students In-class
Due to the nature of the class, we will be talking about any number of issues, topics and areas of interest & study that may be considered potentially volatile. In-class discussion and debate will be encouraged, but attacking fellow students for their beliefs will not be tolerated and your grade will be negatively affected if I consider you have crossed the line. Our classroom needs to be a space for free and safe exchange of ideas and opinions, but I will not allow it to become a pulpit or a soap box.

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.admin.mtu.edu/ada

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

Equal Opportunity Statement: