Michigan Technological University
Course Syllabus
HU 2001 – Composition
Fall 2011

Instructor: Andrea Norkus
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Course Location: Walker Hall 143
Office Hours: M,W,F 4:00-5:00

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Office: Walker Hall 149
Time: M,W,F 3:05-3:55
Mailbox: Walker 319

Course Description: This course will better acquaint students with strategies for written, spoken, and, visual communication. Because students study, practice, and develop texts that are conveyed to varying target audiences, HU 2001 will prepare students to learn rhetorical strategies for conducting informed research, critical reasoning, and persuasive techniques. The multimodal approach will give students the knowledge needed to communicate effectively while promoting personal growth as a scholar and individual.

(MTU Student Curriculum/ Humanities Guidelines).

In addition, we will be discussing variances in communication, development, and understanding. Our course will have a theme: “Merging Boundaries, Boarders, Biases, and Differences—Communication in a Diverse Society.” This theme will allow us to explore what it means to be “different,” what we can learn from diversity, and how to see perspective as the “other.”

Course Objectives:
In HU 2001 students will learn to:

-Expand on and improve your written and oral communication skills and abilities.

-Write and speak precisely and persuasively.

-Explore various avenues of rhetorical techniques and strategies.

-Demonstrate the ability to use appropriate citations practices.

-Develop proofreading and editing skills.

-Adjust communication strategies and modes for specific audiences and or situational differences.

-Demonstrate the ability to evaluate evidence.

-Strengthen the ability to consider/ respect others positions, statements, and ideas.
Required Materials:

Text: The Craft of Research

Recommended Materials:

Citation Handbook
USB Drive/Thumb Drive
Notebook
Writing utensil
Folder or binder

Additional Requirements: Attendance is MANDATORY. If you choose to miss a class your grade will suffer greatly. If you have a legitimate reason (illness, death in family, etc..) you should contact your instructor immediately via e-mail or telephone. The instructor will determine how you will, or if you will be able to make up missed activities based upon the circumstances.

Homework: It’s your responsibility, it’s your effort, and it’s your grade. If you choose not to complete your homework it’s nobody’s fault but your own. Late work will not be accepted and a zero will be given for the recorded assignment.

Assignments and Research: Submissions must always be typed in Times New Roman font (size 12) with proper margins, spacing, and citation style/s unless instructed otherwise.

Spelling and Grammar Count: It’s understandable that you’re not all English majors, but it is absolutely necessary to be as accurate and professional as possible.

Course Website: Blackboard http://www.courses.mtu.edu
- ALL homework will be turned in either as a hard copy in class or posted onto Blackboard. If you happen to have any issues with Blackboard contact me via e-mail and attach a copy of your assignment to avoid being marked down.
- Also, make sure to check Blackboard for updates EVERY DAY! Make sure you’re not missing any required readings or assignments.

E-Mail: Please be courteous to your instructor AND e-mail in a timely fashion. Also, allow 24 hours for an e-mail response.
- For example, don’t send an e-mail like this: “Yo dude, I’m sick, can’t come in 2-day. Pce.”
-One day you’ll all be working in a professional setting and communication errors like this will be unacceptable and inappropriate.

**Electronic Devices:** Refer to your course syllabus or e-mail for the dates you need to bring your laptop. As for cell phones, I-Pods, MP3’s, etc… will NOT be needed and should be turned off and or silenced during class time. In the event of an emergency the instructor’s phone will be left on to ensure lines of communication are open and available. If a student is using an electronic device during class without permission the device will be confiscated for the class period and returned after class. Students violating this rule will lose participation points and will be required to speak with the instructor.

*Texting during class is a very large pet peeve of mine. If you need to make a call or send a text it is expected that you will excuse yourself from the room to do so.

**Grades/Grading Scale:**

There will be a variety of course requirements you’ll be expected to complete from the following list:

*For spoken communication:* Considers the tone of voice, pace of articulation, expression, vocal fluency, and shows that the individual has rehearsed and edited the piece.

*For sound communication:* Sound effects and/or soundtracks meaningfully contribute to the rhetorical effects of the project.

*For visual communication:* Must represent thoughtful application of design elements and the designs must support rhetorical principles or serve a rhetorical principle (Supporting, enforcing, representing, etc…)  

**Diversity Writing Assignment—Being the “other,” a story told from YOUR perspective**

-Does not need to be research or argumentative in nature.

-Demonstrates creativity and thoughtfulness.

-Uses language that is appropriate for the writer’s audience.

-Contents are properly edited and revised.

-Visually appealing.

**Annotated Bibliography Assignment—**

-Demonstrates how to use academic and supportive sources.

-Strengthens reasoning skills and analytical reading abilities.
Research Project Assignment—

- Argumentative in nature (exhibits rhetorical principles).
- Shows well researched sources and proves their credibility.
- Thoughtful, clear language appropriate for the audience in question.
- Logical structure with supporting examples/sources (evidence).

Multimodal Narrative Assignment—

- Demonstrates everything you have learned throughout the semester: rhetorical analysis, research techniques/strategies, diverse perspective, knowledge of design, the function and meaning of language and sound, and finally, the organization of communication and related concepts in today’s modern technological society.
- Must include written, oral, and visual elements.
- Does not exceed 5 minutes in length.
- Shows personal investment and interest (genuine effort).
- Tells a story that is engaging and appropriate for your audience.

Reflective Summary—

- Provides an overview of what you have learned in the course and highlights your development/process.
- Actively displays your experience with the multimodal approach.
- Offers an honest appraisal of your portfolio contents.
- Holds visual appeal and design.
- Does not exceed 2 single spaced pages.

(MTU Student Curriculum/ Humanities Guidelines).

Participation: Students are expected to participate and be at every class. Attendance is ALWAYS taken at the beginning of class. I will grant students a 5 minute window for the first two weeks; however, after that you will be expected to attend class on time. Students will be allowed THREE unexcused absences. After the student’s unexcused absences are used the student will suffer a significant deduction points from their grade for every unexcused absence after that. If a student doesn’t actively participate in class, they will be considered absent. Mind you, class participation means listening actively, taking notes, asking questions, addressing
issues in written or oral manners, etc... Participation is supremely important; your grade will reflect it. Asking questions, making comments, and discussion will be beneficial to your experience in HU 2001.

### Grading Scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-920</td>
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<tr>
<td>A/B</td>
<td>920-870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>870-820</td>
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<tr>
<td>B/C</td>
<td>820-770</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>770-720</td>
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<tr>
<td>C/D</td>
<td>720-670</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>670-600</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>600-Below</td>
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</tbody>
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### The Final Break-Down:

- **Free Writes**: 150 points total
- **Diversity Writing Assignment**: 60 points total
- **Annotated Bibliography Assignment**: 60 points total
- **Research Project Assignment**: 60 points total
- **Multimodal Narrative Assignment**: 60 points total
- **Reflection Summary**: 60 points total
- **Participation/Homework**: 150 points total
- **Final Portfolio**: 400 points total

### Miscellaneous:

- There should not be any reason why a student who puts forth a reasonable amount of effort should earn less than a C in this course.

- The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus to ensure that the objectives are met. Any changes regarding the syllabus, homework, research, etc...will be sent out via e-mail.

- Students are expected to abide by the policies of MTU with regard to academic honesty, cheating, plagiarism, etc...

- Students are expected to respect the rights of other student in class as well as the instructor. This will provide a friendly, stress-free atmosphere that is conducive to learning.
**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 Technological University 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, Chair/Dean of your academic unit, or the Affirmative Programs Office at 487-3310.*

**Academic Integrity:**

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

**Affirmative Action:**

http://www.admin.mtu.edu/ao/

**Equal Opportunity Statement:**


**Tentative Schedule:** Our Schedule will be given as another separate document and will also be posted on Blackboard. If there happens to be any alterations in our assignments/due dates I will notify you via e-mail AND in class. It is your responsibility to remember and/or record these alterations.