COURSE DESCRIPTION

Composition is a general education requirement designed to offer you the opportunity to broaden your worldview, and to equip you with the necessary tools to communicate effectively in written, visual, and oral modes. At the end of the semester you will be better prepared to communicate persuasively, taking into account the audience, purpose, and context of a given communicative situation. You will also learn fancy and impressive terms like multimodality, rhetorical analysis, ethos, pathos, and logos.

COURSE OVERVIEW

We will take a cultural studies approach to this class. What does that mean? It means we’ll read, analyze, and respond to texts about popular culture, political, and social issues. We will cover readings from our text, *The Craft of Research*, and other texts (provided as PDFs) as needed. We will also watch and analyze movie and YouTube clips, advertising images, and other pop culture artifacts. You will present your work to the class, and you will work in groups on a regular basis.

Throughout the semester, we will explore what it means to engage in composition as a process. Your three major assignments will require brainstorming, reflective pre-writing, multiple drafts, peer reviews, and revision.

*How to Find Me:* ksnydermtu.edu  314 Walker  M/W 9-10 a.m.
ASSIGNMENTS & ACTIVITIES

When I assign your coursework, I will provide you with detailed instructions and a rubric. I will explain all assignments in class and give you a chance to ask questions. Feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns regarding any of your assignments. Also, I reserve the right to revise the syllabus and course schedule to better serve student needs.

This I Believe: You will write a personal essay and present your work to the class. Final draft due:

Visual Argument: In teams of one or two, you will redesign an advertising image in a subversive way. You will write a 3-page rhetorical analysis of the original advertising image. Finally, you will present your work to the class. Final draft due:

Research Project: You will write a persuasive research paper (1500-2500 words) about a topic of your choice, then present your paper to the class. Final draft due:

Student Led Discussion: Teams of two will lead one 20-minute class discussion on an assigned text or a current event.

Journal: For each of the first ten weeks of class you will write a 300 word journal entry on the week’s readings, discussion, or activities. I will collect journals every other Monday.

Portfolio: In lieu of a final exam you will submit a portfolio of your work, along with reflective essay, on the last day of class.

In-class discussions, informal presentations and quizzes: Expect to participate in class discussions and present your work informally. Also, expect a short quiz (5 questions) following each assigned reading from The Craft of Research.

REQUIRED TEXTS and SUPPLIES

The Craft of Research
Spiral bound notebook

RECOMMENDED TEXTS


How to Find Me: knyderm@mtu.edu 314 Walker M/W 9-10 a.m.
Grades

Your grade will be determined as follows:

10% Journal
10% Portfolio
20% “This I Believe”
20% Visual Argument
20% Research Paper
20% Participation/Attendance/Quizzes

Grading System

A  93% +
AB 88-92%
B  82-87%
BC 76-81%
C  70-75%
CD 65-69%
D  60-64%
F  59% -

Late Assignments

I will not accept assignments made late by procrastination, laziness or apathy. That being said, if you are concerned about completing an assignment on time, let me know as far ahead of the due date as possible so that we can talk about making other arrangements.

Course Policies

Absences: I will grant you three unexcused absences; subsequent missed classes will affect your grade.

Behavioral Standards: Please behave as an adult in my classroom. If you act as children, I will treat you as such and the class will become highly punitive in nature.

Instructor Pet Peeves: I do not want to see or hear any of the myriad electronic devices you may own. Please see me if you have concerns regarding this policy.
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*