Michigan Technological University
UN2001: Composition

Course Syllabus
Instructor: Kevin Hodur
Section R01, Spring 2012
Class: MWF- 8.05am-8.55pm
Office Hours: Vary/By Appointment
Contact: kwhodur@mtu.edu

Required Texts:

Course Overview:
Your goal in Composition is to respond to ideas and communicate effectively using the three main communication modes... visual, oral, and written communication. This is essential for any field. Once you are in your career, it is invaluable that you are listened to and respected. Effective communication skills can make all the difference in getting your project or idea approved and a fantastic idea being reduced to the circular file. The ideas of rhetoric and effective argument form the core of this course.

Teaching Approach:
To be a better communicator, you need to practice communication. Just like you don't become an excellent musician or a talented shooting guard just by showing up for the concert/game time, you can't be an excellent writer or speaker without practice. Yes you can write, yes you can speak. It's a matter of getting up in an informal environment and doing it, practicing those skills, becoming adept at making effective arguments. That is this course. But you have to work in practice, and I expect you to show up here and contribute.

Assignments:
There are three major assignments that make up the core of this course. While they vary in length and point value, they should receive the utmost attention. There are other assignments sprinkled throughout the term, though, that should receive your full effort as well. Please remember that you must complete all assignments in order to receive a passing grade for this course.

Grading & Revising:
The grading process does not stop once I grade your work and hand it back to you. Regardless of the grade, if you revise and improve your work you will receive a better grade on that individual assignment. This entire class is about continually revising: your writing, your ideas, your beliefs.

Other Course Policies:
One of the main modes of this class is discussion, and that's a bit hard to do when you're not here. Attendance is essential. You are permitted three unexcused absences without any effect on your participation grade. Use them as you wish, though remember that if you miss an in-class assignment, you cannot make it up. Subsequent absences will have a detrimental impact on your Presence grade.

I do not accept late work. This is to be fair to all of us: you, your classmates, and me. I am only grading assignments at one time. Having two assignments due splits your attention.

E-Mail Policy:
Please do not send me assignments via e-mail... I will not accept them. Allow at least 48 hours for an e-mail response to questions or comments.
Points Breakdown:
40% - Presence (attendance, small graded assignments, group assignments, participation)
20% - Assignment #1
20% - Assignment #2
20% - Assignment #3

MTU’s Policy on Academic Integrity:
Please see MTU’s policy online at http://www.mtu.edu/dean_conduct_policy/academic-integrity.

MTU’s Policy on Discrimination and Harassment:
Please see MTU’s policy online at http://www.mtu.edu/admin_hrs_policy_che_chap.htm

Course Schedule:
Week One: Syllabus, Introductions, Assumptions, Assignment #1 assigned, Readings
Week Two: Small Assign 1, Film, Readings
Week Three: Discuss Film, Peer Evaluation of Assignment #1 (hand-in RD), Readings, Small Assignment 2
Week Four: Readings, Small Assignment 3, Assignment #1 Final Draft Due
Week Five: Readings, Small Assignment 4, Assignment #2 assigned
Week Six: Readings, Small Assignment 5, Visual Communication
Week Seven: Reexamine News, Peer Evaluation of Assignment #2 (hand-in RD), Readings
Week Eight: Readings, Sources and Citation, Small Assignment 6
Week Nine: Assignment #2 Final Draft Due, Small Assignment 7, Presentations
Week Ten: Assignment #3 assigned, Readings, Discussion, What is Research?
Week Eleven: Workshop, Small Assignment 8, Readings, Discussion
Week Twelve: Peer Evaluation of Assignment #3 (hand-in RD), Readings, Discussion, Public Speaking
Week Thirteen: Workshop, Discussion, Small Assignment 9, Readings
Week Fourteen: Small Assignment 10, Presentations, Final Discussion, Assignment #3 Final Draft Due

I reserve the right to change the course syllabus at any time. If you have any questions regarding course policies procedures, assignments, etc., please ask either a classmate or myself. I am available during my listed office hours and via e-mail.