Course Syllabus

Spring 2014

MWF 10:05 - 10:55 (R06, Walker 143)

Instructor Information

Instructor: Vincent Manzie
Office Location: Walker 149
E-mail: vdmanzie@mtu.edu
Office Hours: Monday: Noon – 1:00pm, and by appointment
Cell Phone: (906) 281-8321

Course Identification
Course Number: UN 1015/CRN 14755
Course Name: Composition
Course Location: Walker 143
Section: R06

Course Description/Overview

Provides direct instruction in composition. Students examine and interpret communication practices and apply what they learn to their own written, spoken, and visual compositions. Class projects ask students to communicate in a variety of modes and to attend to audience, purpose, and context.

Course Learning Objectives

Students who complete this course will be able to:

- Demonstrate awareness of context, audience, purpose and task in writing.
- Demonstrate ability to clearly and consistently use organizational and conventional pattern and structuring elements including introduction, thesis and main points, conclusion, and transitions; follow formal and informal rules of genre or disciplinary expectations about organization, content, presentation, formatting, and stylistic choices.
- Demonstrate ability in content development, use of sources and evidence, and skills in the control of Syntax (grammar, sentence structure, and language rules) and Mechanics.
Course Resources

Course Website(s)
- Canvas

Required Course Text


Grading Scheme

Grading System
A (93-100); AB (88-92); B (83-87); BC (78-82); C (73-77); CD (68-72); D (60-67); F (59 AND BELOW)

Grading Policy
Grades will be based on the following: (1000 Points System)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rhetorical Analysis 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position Paper</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Reviews</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multimodal Project</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Deadlines for major assignments
See Course schedule below for tentative dates for the following major assignments: Rhetorical Analysis (1 & 2); Position paper; Research paper; Multimodal Project; Oral Presentation; Portfolios.

FYI: Successful completion of this course requires that all assignments and other required tasks be turned in. Points will be deducted for late submission, and in some cases, a fail grade, unless the student can convince the instructor that circumstances beyond his/her control interfered with the work. Permission for late submission may be granted, in very special circumstances, but the student still loses points in fairness to those who respect deadlines.

*Position paper* is written persuasively and aims at convincing the reader of the writer's point of view or opinion.

*Research paper:* This is a thorough analysis of a topic which takes a stance supported by academic sources and appropriate citations.
Collaboration/Plagiarism Rules

MTU is very much concerned with plagiarism and academic integrity. The University’s policy on integrity sees it criminal for you to “knowingly copy another another’s work or ideas and calling them your own or not giving them proper credit or citation”. Copying sections of papers, full papers, and submitting another student’s work as your own, or purchasing academic papers written by someone else are some forms of plagiarism.

For more information: www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html. Understand that plagiarism can result in expulsion from Michigan Tech.

University Policies

Academic regulations and procedures are governed by University policy. Cases of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the University's policies.

FYI: "Student work products (exams, essays, projects, etc.) may be used for purposes of university, program, or course assessment. All work used for assessment purposes will not include any individual student identification."

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/aa0/

Disability Services:
http://www.admin.mtu.edu/dean/disability/policies


Attendance Policy & Participation

This course emphasizes the need for group work and active interaction, as such, you are expected to attend, and participate actively during class activities. A student with more than two (2) unexcused absences during the semester will lose credit for attendance and participation. One unexcused absence results to losing half the credits for attendance and participation. You must inform your instructor at least 24 hours for an excused absence. Requests for absences few minutes or hours to class time will be
acknowledged as an unexcused absence. No student will be granted more than three (3) absences. Any further absences automatically result to the student losing credit for attendance and participation.

In order to earn a good grade for participation, you need to come to class on time, and prepared to actively take part in all activities.

**Classroom Policies**

Cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, PDAs, or any other electronic devices are not to be used in the classroom. Information exchanges on these devices during class are also prohibited and violate the Academic Integrity Code of Michigan Tech.

**Course schedule**

**Weeks 1 & 2 (Jan 13-24): Analyzing Texts**

Goals:

1. Understanding the rhetorical situation
2. Considering relationships between audience, text, and purpose
3. Textual Analysis
4. Developing Thesis Statements

Major Assignment: *Rhetorical Analysis Essay 1* Due: 01/22—Tentative deadline

**Weeks 3 & 4 (Jan 27-Feb 7): Understanding the Strategies of Persuasion**

Goals:

1. Strategies of arguments
2. Understanding rhetorical appeals; logos, pathos, ethos
3. Abuses or exaggerated uses of rhetorical appeals
4. Importance of Context and *Kairos*

Major assignment: *Rhetorical Analysis 2* Due: Feb 10—Tentative deadline

**Weeks 5 & 6 (Feb 10-21): Composing Arguments**

Goals:

1. Introductions and conclusions
2. Arrangement and structure of argument
3. Considering various perspectives on argument
4. Developing persona and rhetorical stance
5. Addressing opposing opinion in an argument
6. Effective titles

Major assignment: *Position Paper; Multiple sides of an argument paper; Argumentative essay incorporating diverse viewpoints* (choose one of these for the assignment) Due: Feb 24 Tentative
Weeks 7 & 8 (Feb 24-Mar 7): Planning and Proposing Research Arguments

Goals:

1. Generating and narrowing research topics
2. Finding research topics (research strategies)
3. Sources for your research paper/annotated bibliography
4. Prewriting strategies
5. Developing a research plan
6. Drafting a formal proposal

Major assignment: Research Proposal (choose a topic, research it, and submit a proposal that includes annotated bibliography for your research paper); Due at the end of Week 8

Weeks 9, 10, & 11 (Mar 10-28): Organizing and Writing Research Arguments

*Begin writing your research paper

Deadlines: 1st draft due: Mar 24; 2nd draft due: Mar 31; Final draft due: April 7

Goals:

1. Organizing and outlining arguments
2. Importance of Multiple drafts and revision
3. Writing and peer review and response
4. Quoting from sources, paraphrasing; MLA style
5. Plagiarism

Weeks 12 & 13 (Mar 31-April 11): Multimodal Project

*You will prepare a Statement of Purpose for your intended project and submit on April 9

Goals:

1. Thinking in images, writing in images
2. Rhetorical Design literacy
3. Using images to represent ideas, products, ideologies, with less words
4. Juxtaposition
5. Storyboard

Major assignment: Final Multimodal Project to be submitted on April 18
Weeks 14 & 15 (April 14-25): Delivering Presentations, submission of portfolios

*You may choose to convert your written research paper (findings, position, etc.) into an oral presentation.

Goals:

1. Transforming written arguments into visual or spoken texts
2. Strategies of design and delivery
3. Using technology to address a range of audiences

*Portfolio: You are required to include the following items in your Zip file or folder:

- Reflective Summary (pdf): It provides an overview of the submitted documents and a thoughtful discussion of how each one was conceived, developed and designed; offers the student’s honest self-appraisal of his or her performance in the course. Should not exceed two-single-spaced pages in length.

- Research Project (submitted as a single pdf in your folder; further details to be provided)

- Rhetorical Analysis Essay or another essay (not necessarily argumentative) written during the course. Further details to be provided.

- Multimodal Project (further details to be provided)

Other Key activities and dates

- Required Library Session (date to be announced)
- Conferences: one-on-one (dates to be announced)
- In-Class: Peer Review 1 (Mar 24)
- In-Class: Peer Review 2 (Mar 31)