Composition - UN 1015 - Spring 2014

Class motto: "you are entitled to your own opinions, not your own facts"

Instructor: Elsa Roberts          E-mail: eroberts@mtu.edu
Office Location: Walker 148      Office Hours: T 6:00-7:00PM
Cell: 906.281.0384               R 2:00- 4:00PM


Course Website: mtu.instructure.com

Course Description and goals: The goal of this course is to develop your composition and communication skills, and, additionally, to develop your critical thinking skills. In this class you will learn to evaluate and cite sources, to write in an academic and professional context, and to develop your knowledge of content organization and mechanics. The learning environment in this class will be one of respectful and robust classroom engagement around a variety of topics designed to challenge your perspectives and enhance your critical thinking skills.

The university-wide rubric for assessing communication competency can be viewed in detail on Canvas.

Grading
A  92 and above
AB  88 – 91
B   80 – 87
BC  76 – 79
C   70 – 75
CD  67 – 69
D   60 – 66
F   59 and below

Weight of Assignments
Major projects – 70%
Resume and Cover Letter
Short Article
Literature Review
Pecha Kucha Presentation
Homework – 20%
Portfolio – 10%

Absence and Late Assignments Policy: You are allowed three unexcused absences; each additional absence will result in a half letter grade reduction (special circumstances and excused absences may be taken into account at the instructor’s discretion). Students more than 10 min. late will be marked absent from the class.

Late assignments accepted at teacher discretion. To request a deadline extension prior arrangements have been made at least one class period (or two days) in advance. Deadline extensions are at the sole discretion of the instructor as are consideration of special (documented) circumstances (such as car accidents, death in the family, etc.).
**Classroom Policies:** Electronic devices must be on silent and in your bags or pockets for the duration of the class unless they are in use for class purposes.

Disruptive students may be immediately dismissed for that class period should the instructor deem it necessary.

Students must check Canvas regularly (daily is recommended) to stay up to date on course assignments.

**Assignment submission guidelines:** Unless otherwise indicated, assignments must be submitted online prior to class. File names for uploaded assignments must contain the assignment name and iteration (i.e. final draft, rough draft) and your first initial and last name (EX: Position Paper Final Draft ERoss). Points will be deducted from uploaded assignments not following this convention.

**Multiliteracies Center (Walker 107):** The instructor encourages all students to visit the writing center as they are developing their ideas and drafts of their papers. The Multiliteracies center offers one-on-one coaching, which will greatly enhance your writing and editing skills.

**Academic Integrity:** Graded material found to be plagiarized will receive an automatic zero for that assignment and the student may face additional penalties through the office of Student Conduct Services. Student papers will be run through TurnItIn.com, which checks for word similarity, direct quotations, etc.

Academic regulations and procedures are governed by University policy. Academic misconduct cases will be handled in accordance with the University’s policies.

**Disability Services:** If you have a disability that could affect your performance in any class or that requires an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact your instructor or Disability Services at 487-1494 as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

**Non-Discrimination Policy Statement:** My students should be aware that I am committed to affording equal opportunity to all of my students regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, race, religion or lack there-of, color, national origin, height, weight, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, age, disability or sex. Discrimination against and disrespect for others will not be tolerated in this classroom. Students exhibiting unacceptable behavior may be dismissed from class.

**Sex Discrimination/Sexual Harassment:** Michigan Technological University prohibits sex discrimination/sexual harassment. If you believe you are the victim of harassment please see your instructor or contact the office of Institutional Equity or contact Public Safety if you feel you are in danger.

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