Course Syllabus
HU2130-R01 Introduction to Rhetoric  
College of Science and Arts  
SUMMER 2015 Track A

Instructor Information
Instructor: Abraham Romney, PhD, Assistant Professor  
Office Location: 101 Walker  
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Identification
Course Number: HU2130-R01  
Course Name: Introduction to Rhetoric  
Course Location: ONLINE (Canvas)  
Class Times: Online, asynchronous

Course Description/Overview
Examines the classical origins, cultural contexts, and contemporary relevance of rhetorical traditions.

Course Learning Objectives
Welcome to Introduction to Rhetoric where you will learn about one of the most influential traditions in western culture. Early Greek attempts at democracy were accompanied by theories about language use in political contexts. Rhetoric, this tradition of theorizing about language, over time, became useful for fields of study as varied as science and poetry. In Intro to Rhetoric, you will learn about some of the origins of classical rhetoric and will read from authors who have written about rhetoric since. You should also discover ways in which theories of rhetoric remain relevant today. Finally, rhetoric is generally considered part of what we call a Western tradition of thinking. Some of the course readings will invite you to think about the limitations of that perspective when we look at what might be called rhetoric in traditions that did not derive from the Greco-Roman or European traditions of rhetoric.

Course-Specific Goals:
-Develop an understanding of Rhetoric. When someone asks you, “What is rhetoric?,” you’ll be able to answer in ways that move beyond Ethos, Pathos, and Logos or conceptions of mere persuasion.  
-Get an overview of the variety of and adaptations of rhetorical traditions from the classical period to the present.
- Use rhetorical theories and terminology to write about rhetorical situations and different textual objects.
- Understand ways in which rhetoric can be useful to us in understanding and producing texts with traditional and new media.
- Use rhetoric to think through ethical questions (Eg. What is good or bad in a given context? Are certain ways of thinking or communicating ethnocentric?)

**University Learning Goals**
These goals are relevant to the University Learning Goal selected for this course.

**Critical & creative thinking.** Students will be able to think critically and creatively, as demonstrated by their broad, adaptable and versatile use of reasoning, logic, and evidence to access and evaluate information and solve complex problems both independently and in groups. This is a cinch for rhetoric, which involves critical thinking and reasoning about the situations in which communication occurs. As Aristotle defines it, Rhetoric is an ability to see the ways you can persuade people in any given context.

**Course Resources**

**Course Website(s)**
- Canvas<http://mtu.instructure.com>

**Required Course Texts**
I try to keep book costs to a minimum and will be sharing some scanned pdfs of articles or chapters, but I ask that you purchase the following inexpensive books:


Optional:


I will provide links for other free translations if you choose not to buy this.

**Grading Scheme**

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<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade points/credit</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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Grading Policy
Grades will be based on the following:
Major Assignments (totaling 80%)
- Synthesis Paper about rhetoric comparing three texts from our reading. Preceded by reading responses which will act as pre-writing (22%)
- Figure Video assignment (10%)
- Midterm Exam (22%)
- A Final Rhetorical Analysis incorporating rhetorical theories studied in the course. This assignment will use multiple media in addition to text (audio/visual) (22%)
- Final Reflective Exam (%4)

Other Assignments (totaling 20%)
- Quizzes
- Various Reading Responses and Reading Questions
- Various Pre-writing and drafting assignments
- Participation in Discussions

Late Assignments
All assignments must be turned in on time for full credit. Contact me immediately regarding late assignments.

Course Policies

Participation and Attendance.
You are expected to participate actively in online discussion and activities and to be generally engaged in the course. The policy that will make sure that you pass the class is to complete all assignments. In my observation, it is very rare that someone who dutifully completes all work on time will receive a grade lower than a B. Please contact me early if difficulties arise. I’m interested in having everyone get the best experience possible from this course, and I like to see people complete it successfully.
Communication
In all email communication (to be sent to aromney@mtu.edu), include “HU2130” in the subject, along with a brief description of your request. Sample Subject line: “Request for Feedback on my Thesis HU2130.” Letting me know what you want in the subject, helps me make sure I respond to a question. I use email filtering to flag your message as an important email that needs a response, so make sure to include the number. It is a best practice to always address your instructor and sign your name at the end of the email. If you go by a name that does not match your official record, please include both. Responses could take up to 48 hours, especially on weekends (Often I will respond much faster).

Michigan Tech Multiliteracies Center
Because you will do writing for this course, I am requiring that one writing assignment involve consultation with a coach at the Michigan Tech Multiliteracies Center. This is a free service. If you are not going to be in town while taking this online course, I will arrange for you to receive feedback electronically.

University policies
Plagiarism and academic misconduct will not be tolerated. All students should be aware of the following University policies.

Academic Integrity:
http://www.admin.mtu.edu/usenate/policies/p109-1.htm
Academic regulations and procedures are governed by University policy. Academic misconduct cases will be handled in accordance the University's policies.

Assessment:
http://www.admin.mtu.edu/usenate/policies/p312-1.htm
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.

Disability Services:
http://www.mtu.edu/deanofstudents/students/disability/
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.

The Office of Institutional Equity:
http://www.mtu.edu/equity
The Office of Institutional Equity 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. Michigan Tech has a policy of affording equal opportunity to all of its employees, students, applicants for employment, and applicants for admission without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, height, weight, genetic information, or marital status, disabled veteran status, veteran status, or disability.

Veterans / Military
http://www.mtu.edu/registrar/students/veterans/
Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, disabilities) are welcomed and encouraged to communicate these, in advance if possible, to their instructor(s).

**Equal Opportunity, Discrimination, or Harassment Statement:**

[http://www.admin.mtu.edu/admin/boc/policy/ch5/](http://www.admin.mtu.edu/admin/boc/policy/ch5/)

For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, Chair/Dean of your academic unit, Dean of Students Office at 487-2212 or The Office of Institutional Equity at 487-3310.