The purpose of Rhetorical Theory and Criticism is to provide advanced instruction in the analysis and creation of various texts in print, digital, or oral forms. The course focuses on many historical, theoretical, and practical components of what it means to study and produce language from a rhetorical perspective that includes the “how-to, the what, and the why” of symbol system artifacts in different contexts of use. In this course you will:

• develop vocabulary and conceptual understandings of rhetoric theory,
• apply rhetorical terminology to the analysis of chosen texts,
• write analytical documents using rhetorical techniques,
• read about historical and theoretical contexts relevant to the course, and
• hone your own strategies for solving problems you encounter in writing.

Required Books and Materials

*Rhetorical Theory: An Introduction by Tim Borchers, Waveland Press.*

Photocopying of articles and other materials as assigned

Course Requirements

There will be four written/oral assignments for the course:

1) writing two major rhetorical analyses of ~10pp each (40%),
2) preparing two proposals for rhetorical analyses (15%),
3) maintaining an “Invention Notebook” throughout the semester (15%)
4) investigating one of the types of criticism and presenting it to the class (15%).

In addition, there will be weekly readings from the textbook, as well as articles or other readings as appropriate.

Evaluation

Two major rhetorical analyses: 50% (25% each)
Two short proposals: 15%
“Conversational Notebook”: 10%
Presentation on rhetoric topic: 10%
As a “good citizen” of the class: 15%*

*A “good citizen” is someone who has regular attendance, participates in class discussions and activities on a regular basis, works well with others, manages deadlines, and, most importantly, has a good sense of humor.

In terms of attendance, I expect you will come to every class and bring your book(s) to use in discussions. If, however, you know in advance that you will not be here, or if you
have become ill, then please send me a short email letting me know. If you do not let me know, then I will count it as an unexcused absence. If you have repeated absences other than due to illness (more than 2), then I will count them as unexcused. Three or more unexcused absences will result in the loss of at least a half letter grade.

**MTU Policies and Academic Assistance Documents**

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*

**Academic Integrity:** [http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html](http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html)


**Disability:** [http://www.admin.mtu.edu/urel/studenthandbook/student_services.html#disability](http://www.admin.mtu.edu/urel/studenthandbook/student_services.html#disability)