Instructor Information

Instructor: Stephen Kwame Dadugblor
Email: skdadugb@mtu.edu
Office Location: 149 Walker
Office Hours: Mondays 10:00am – 11:00 a.m. or by appointment

Course Identification

Course Number: UN 1015 (R02)
Course Name: Composition
Course Location: 134 Walker
Class Times: MTWR 11:05 am – 12:20pm
Prerequisites: None

Course Description/Overview

In this class, you’ll examine and interpret communication practices and apply what you learn to your own written, spoken, and visual compositions. While writing is the core focus of our class, you will also practice composing in other modes, as well. Class projects will ask you to attend to audience, purpose, and context. You will produce texts over a series of drafts in order to hone your skills as a thoughtful multimodal communicator.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- recognize and use several strategies for producing and interpreting persuasive texts that are appropriate for a particular context, audience, and purpose;
- know how to develop an organized text in written, aural, and/or visual modes and demonstrate a basic understanding of the conventions of a genre or discipline;
- develop carefully crafted arguments informed by research, critical reasoning, and persuasive techniques

The syllabus is flexible and the instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course calendar to meet the needs of students. You will be notified of any changes should this become necessary.
This course is designed to meet two of Michigan Tech’s General Education Student Learning Goals: Communication (Goal 5) and Information Literacy (Goal 6). To learn more about these learning goals, please see the rubrics posted at http://www.mtu.edu/assessment/program/university-learning-goals/

**Required Readings and Other Materials**

2. Other assigned readings will be posted in Canvas

**Grading Scheme**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade points/credit</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% &amp; above</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>87% – 92%</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82% – 86%</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>76% – 81%</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>Above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% – 75%</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD</td>
<td>65% – 69%</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>Below average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% - 64%</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Inferior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assignments & Grade Distribution**

**Participation & Process (20%)**

Includes the quality completion of readings, in-class and homework activities, informal writing assignments, project drafts, and peer review exchanges and substantial contribution to class discussions.

**Rhetorical Analysis Essay (15%)—due Friday, May 29, 2015**

A 1,000 to 1,200-word essay that identifies the rhetorical elements of a multimodal text of your choosing. This essay will be written in multiple drafts.

**Research Process Portfolio (15%)—due Saturday, June 6, 2015**

A collection of documents that traces the steps of your research for the researched argument essay.

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Researched Argument Essay (25%)—due Friday June 19, 2015

A 2,500-word essay that uses the findings of your research to develop a thesis on an unsettled question or issue. This essay will be written in multiple drafts.

Multimodal Project (25%)—due Wednesday, June 24, 2015

A multimodal “text” that persuades an audience using a combination of aural, visual, and/or written modes of communication.

Also, please note that the above are final due dates; draft due dates will be communicated in class.

Late or Missing Work

Late homework assignments will not be accepted, unless you have made arrangements with me in advance. Late essay and project drafts submitted within 2 days of the due date will receive partial credit; final drafts of essays and projects turned in late will receive a reduced grade. Students must turn in complete, final drafts of ALL major assignments in order to receive a passing course grade.

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

Uninterrupted attendance at class meetings and in conferences with the instructor is mandatory. More than 4 absences for this course is grounds for failing the course. If you have extenuating circumstances that will interfere with consistent attendance in class, please communicate your concerns beforehand with me and/or the Dean of Students at 906-487-2212 or deanofstudents@mtu.edu

Late or Missing Work

Late homework assignments will not be accepted, unless you have made arrangements with me in advance. Late essay and project drafts submitted within 2 days of the due date will receive partial credit; final drafts of essays and projects turned in late will receive a reduced grade. Students must turn in complete, final drafts of ALL major assignments in order to receive a passing course grade.

Class Format

Where necessary, classes will be held in a combination of online and in-class sessions. Participation in activities of both sessions will be required and counted towards the participation grade.

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**Collaboration/Plagiarism Rules**

Unless otherwise specified, cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, PDAs, or any other electronic devices are not to be used in the classroom.

**University Policies**

**Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism, or “knowingly copying another’s work or ideas and calling them one’s own or not giving proper credit or citation,” is a violation of the MTU academic integrity policy: [http://www.admin.mtu.edu/usenate/policies/p109-1.htm](http://www.admin.mtu.edu/usenate/policies/p109-1.htm). In this class, we’ll discuss source attribution so you can learn how and why to avoid plagiarism in your work. It is crucial that you take care to acknowledge the sources of your written, audio, or visual material in this and other classes. Instances of plagiarized work will be handled according to university procedures for reporting incidents to the Office of Student Affairs.

**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.

**Disability Services:** [http://www.mtu.edu/deanofstudents/students/disability/](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.

**Veterans / Military:** [http://www.mtu.edu/registrar/students/veterans/](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).

**The Office of Institutional Equity:** [http://www.mtu.edu/equity](http://www.mtu.edu/equity)

**Equal Opportunity, Discrimination, or Harassment Statement:** [http://www.admin.mtu.edu/admin/boc/policy/ch5/](http://www.admin.mtu.edu/admin/boc/policy/ch5/)

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Course Schedule

Week 1
M 5/11  Course Introduction, Review of Syllabus/Policies, Calendar
**Topic:** Introduction to Rhetoric
**Homework:** 1. Chapter 1 of *Envision* (Analyzing Texts and Writing Thesis Statements, pp. 2-33)
2. Find 5 to 6 multimodal artifacts (comics, cartoons, advertisements) that are sufficiently complex and argumentative to sustain a robust rhetorical analysis essay. If possible, these should relate to a topic about which you may wish to write. Bring this to class tomorrow.

T 5/12  **Topic:** Analyzing Texts and Writing Thesis Statements
**Homework:** Rhetorical Analysis Essay of a multimodal text

W 5/13  **Topic:** Strategies of Persuasion: Rhetorical Strategies
**Homework:** Read Chapter 2 of *Envision* (Strategies of Persuasion, pp. 44-72)

R 5/14  **Topic:** Strategies of Persuasion cont’d: Rhetorical Appeals, Doxa, Kairos
**Homework:** 1. Rhetorical Analysis Essay (Begin working on draft)
2. Rhetorical analysis discussion of multimodal artifact

Week 2
M 5/18  **Topic:** Composing Arguments—Five Canons of Rhetoric
**Homework:** 1. Read Chapter 3: Strategies of Persuasion (pp. 78-112)
2. Start thinking about your research topics

T 5/19  **Topic:** Composing Arguments, cont’d—Common strategies of arrangement; Plain versus high style
**Homework:** 1. Assignment: Rhetorical Analysis Essay draft due Wednesday, May 20 at 11:00 a.m. on Canvas.

W 5/20  **Topic:** Library Session Pre-work and Peer Review

R 5/21  **Topic:** CONFERENCES
**Homework:** 1. Rhetorical Analysis revision—reflective writing cover sheet
2. Read Chapter 4: Planning and Proposing Research Arguments (pp. 116-132)

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3. Rhetorical Analysis Essay final due on **Friday, May 29, 2015**.

4. Research Process Document due **Saturday, June 6, 2015**

### Week 3

**M 5/25**  
Memorial Day Recess

**T 5/26**  
**Topic:** CONFERENCES

**W 5/27**  
**Topic:** Planning Research Arguments and Asking Questions  
**Homework:**  
1. Research Process Document  
2. Read Chapter 5: Finding and Evaluating Research Sources  
   (pp. 142-157, 166-174)

**R 5/28**  
**Topic:** Library Session  
**Homework:** Research Process Document

### Week 4

**M 6/1**  
**Topic:** Narrowing a Topic; Finding and Evaluating Sources  
**Homework:** Research Process Document

**T 6/2**  
**Topic:** Using Sources (Summary, Paraphrase, Quotation)  
**Homework:** Research Process Portfolio

**W 6/3**  
**Topic:** Visual Organisation; Outlining Strategies  
**Homework:**  
1. Revisions of Research Process Document  
2. Researched Argument Paper due Friday June, 19, 2015 at 11:59 pm.  
3. Read Chapter 6: Organizing and Writing Research Arguments  
   (pp. 176-199) and  
4. Read Chapter 7: Avoiding Plagiarism and Documenting Sources  
   (pp. 223-227)

**R 6/4**  
**Topic:** Drafting Your Argument; Avoiding Plagiarism  
**Homework:** Researched Argument Paper

### Week 5

**M 6/8**  
**Topic:** Introductions, Transitions and Conclusions  
**Homework:** Researched Argument Paper

**T 6/9**  
**Topic:** More Writing; Revision Strategies  
**Homework:** Researched Argument Paper

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W 6/10  Topic: Organizing the Researched Argument Paper
Homework: 1. Revise draft of Researched Argument Paper
2. Read Chapter 6: Organizing and Writing Research Arguments
   – Revising Your Draft (pp. 205-221)
3. Read Chapter 7: Avoiding Plagiarism and Documenting
   Sources – MLA Style

R 6/11  Topic: Documentation Style and Line Editing
Homework: 1. Revise draft of Researched Argument Paper
2. Submit a reflective writing about Researched Argument Paper
3. Multimodality and Presentation Assignment due Wednesday,
   June 24, 2015

Week 6
M 6/15  Topic: CONFERENCES

T 6/16  Topic: CONFERENCES

W 6/17  Topic: Document Design and Multimodality
Homework: 1. Read Chapter 8: Designing Arguments, pages 252-282
2. Multimodality and Presentation Assignment

R 6/18  Topic: Multimodality
Homework: 1. Researched Argument Paper due today on Canvas at 11:59
   pm
2. Revise Assignment on Multimodality

Week 7
M 6/22  Topic: Multimodality, cont’d
Homework: Revise Assignment on Multimodality

T 6/23  Topic: Multimodality, cont’d
Homework: Revise Assignment on Multimodality

W 6/24  Topic: Final Presentations of Multimodality starts today.
Homework: Electronic Portfolio Assignment due tomorrow

R 6/25  Topic: Final Presentations; Electronic Portfolio Assignment due today

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