Instructor Information

Instructor: Jen Pelto, Instructor
Office Location: 147 Walker
E-mail: jhpelto@mtu.edu
Office Hours: Monday 10-11am, or by appointment (recommended)

Course Identification

Course Number: 52115-R15
Course Name: Composition
Course Location: Online
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

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/

Course Resources

Course Website(s)
- Canvas http://www.courses.mtu.edu
Required Course Text

- Other assigned texts will be posted in Canvas

Assignments & Grade Distribution

*Participation & Process (20%)*

Includes the quality completion of readings, discussion board posts, informal writing assignments, project drafts, and peer review exchanges. May also include recall quizzes.

*Rhetorical Analysis Essay (20%)*

A 1,500-word essay that identifies the rhetorical elements of a multimodal text of your choosing.

*Research Process Portfolio (15%)*

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

*Researched Argument Essay (25%)*

A 2,500-word essay that uses the findings of your research to develop a thesis on an unsettled question or issue.

*Multimodal Project (20%)*

A multimodal “text” that attends to audience using a combination of communication modes. In this class, you will have to choice of creating a science podcast OR creating a text-based video game. (No experience necessary!)
### Grading Scale

<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>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete; given only when a student is unable to complete a segment of the course because of circumstances beyond the student's control.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Conditional, with no grade points per credit; given only when the student is at fault in failing to complete a minor segment of a course, but in the judgment of the instructor does not need to repeat the course. It must be made up by the close of the next semester or the grade becomes a failure (F). A (X) grade is computed into the grade point average as a (F) grade.</td>
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### Late or Missing Work

Under typical circumstances, late work will **not** be accepted for a grade unless you have made arrangements with me in advance.

An exception will be made for the final drafts of the rhetorical analysis essay and the researched argument essay: up to 24 hours late: 25% grade reduction; 24-48 hours late: 50% grade reduction. Please submit early to avoid technological issues. **Students must turn in complete, final drafts of ALL major assignments in order to receive a passing course grade.**

### Course Policies

**Group work/Collaboration**

Unless otherwise instructed, all work produced in this course (including informal writing) must be your own. In group work, students are expected to contribute meaningfully and equally. Group work may be graded individually.
**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>. 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/)