UN1015: Composition
Course Syllabus & Policies

Course Details: R10; MWF, 2:05 – 2:55, Walker 143

Instructor Information
Andrew Gray
adgray@mtu.edu
Walker 131
Office Hours: Wednesday 9:30-10:30 and Friday 12:30-1:30, 3:00-4:00 (and by appointment)

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. Although writing is the core focus of our class, you will also practice composing in other modes. 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 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/

Required Readings & Other Materials

Other assigned readings will be posted in Canvas under the Module tab
Assignments & Grade Distribution (Due Dates are Subject to Change)

*Participation & Process (20%)*
Includes the quality completion of readings, discussions, in-class and homework activities, class attendance, informal writing assignments, project drafts, and peer review exchanges.

*Rhetorical Analysis Essay (15%)—due Sept. 28*
A 1,200 to 1,500-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 Oct. 19*
A collection of documents that traces the steps of your research for the researched argument essay.

*Researched Argument Essay (20%)—due Nov. 9*
A 2,200 to 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 (20%)—due Dec. 4*
A multimodal “text” that persuades an audience using a combination of aural, visual, and/or written modes of communication.

*Final Portfolio (10%)—due Dec. 11*
A digital collection of your best, final efforts at the four major course assignments: Rhetorical Analysis, Research Process Portfolio, Researched Argument Essay, and Multimodal Project, submitted in separate files. The portfolio will also include a written reflection statement.

Extra Credit: You will have the opportunity to rework one essay/project, or create a new essay/project. In order to receive the extra credit, the assignment must be handed in before the end of the semester. Completion of this assignment could potentially raise your final grade by 3%. Other opportunities for extra credit (e.g., attending and reporting on University events) may also present themselves throughout the semester.

This semester, the Research Process Portfolio and Researched Argument Essay will be submitted for as part of our yearly assessment of the general education program. This means that in addition to submitting these assignments to me for grading, you will be required to submit them to LiveText through a link on Canvas. (I will provide you with more details about this process later in the semester.) If you wish your work to remain anonymous, make sure to remove any identifying information from the documents prior to submitting them to LiveText. You must submit these two assignments to LiveText for assessment before the end of the semester in order to receive your grade for the course—failure to do so will result in an “I” (incomplete) grade in the course, until the assignments have been submitted.
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**Attendance Policy**

Uninterrupted attendance at class meetings and in conferences with the instructor are mandatory. More than 4 absences for MWF courses can result in a lower grade. More than 6 absences for MWF courses is grounds for failing the course. If you have extenuating circumstances that will interfere with consistent attendance in class, please communicate your concerns 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 must be submitted within 2 days of the due date and 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.

**University Policies**

Michigan Tech has standard policies on academic misconduct and complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For more information about reasonable accommodation for or equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at (906) 487-2212 or go to [http://www.mtu.edu/ctl/instructional-resources/syllabus/syllabus_policies.html](http://www.mtu.edu/ctl/instructional-resources/syllabus/syllabus_policies.html)
Plagiarism

Plagiarism, which Michigan Tech defines as "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 academic integrity policy: <http://www.admin.mtu.edu/usenate/policies/p109-1.htm>. In this class, we will discuss the practical and ethical aspects of source attribution so you can learn how and why to avoid plagiarism in your academic 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, which includes a reporting of the incident 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; therefore, students should remove their names, teachers’ names, course and section identifiers before submitting work for assessment.