UN1015: Composition
Syllabus Fall 2015

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Office Hours: Friday 1-6

Course Description and Overview
In this class, you'll examine and interpret communication practices and apply what you learn to your own written, spoken, and visual compositions. Class projects will ask you to communicate in a variety of modes and to attend to audience, purpose, and context.

This semester, you will produce texts over a series of drafts in order to hone your skills as a thoughtful multimodal communicator. While writing is the core focus of our class, you will also practice composing in other modes, as well.

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 Technological University’s Student Learning Goals: Communication (Goal 5) and Information Literacy (Goal 6). To learn more about these two learning goals, please see the rubrics.

Required Readings and Other Materials
There is no required text for this course, however you are expected to keep up with readings, notes, presentations, and assignments posted to Canvas.

Assignments and Grading

● Research Process Evaluation = 20%
● Researched Argument Essay = 20%
● Multimodal Project = 20%
● Additional Assignments = 20%
● Attendance and Participation = 20%

This semester, the Research Process Evaluation 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. 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 incomplete in the course until they have been submitted.
Grading Scale
A – 93 to 100       AB – 87 to 92       B – 82 to 86       BC – 76 to 82
C – 70 to 75        CD – 65 to 69        D – 60 to 64        F – 59 and below

Attendance Policy
More than 4 absences for MW/TR courses or 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
Students must turn in complete, final drafts of ALL major assignments in order to receive a passing grade in this course. Late work will be penalized one letter grade and cannot be resubmitted after revisions for an improved 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 the CTL’s site for syllabus policies.

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 reporting the incident to the Office of Student Affairs. See the policy here.

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.

Please Note
This syllabus is subject to change at any time at the sole discretion of the instructor. You will be notified of changes in class and/or through Canvas.