Class Meetings and Office Hours

Class Meetings: MWF 3:03-3:55
Walker 144

Office Hours: MWF 1:30 - 2:30, or by appointment
Walker 148

Course 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.

This course, along with all assignments and discussion, will be themed around discourse in popular culture. Course and research materials can include things such as video games, movies, social media, novels, television shows, youtube videos, etc. Through this, we will discover the ways rhetoric informs and influences everything we do — especially in our lives outside of the classroom. By utilizing the lens of popular culture, you will come to appreciate the importance of rhetoric while also gaining the ability to apply a higher level of sophistication to any text you compose in your college and professional career.

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 posted at http://www.mtu.edu/assessment/program/university-learning-goals/
Required Readings & Other Materials
All other readings will be handed out in class and/or posted to canvas.

Assignments & Grading

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

*Rhetorical Analysis Essay (15%)—due September 28 in class; final to canvas by midnight*
A 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 October 16 in class; final to canvas by midnight*
A collection of documents that traces the steps of your research for the researched argument essay.

*Researched Argument Essay (20%)—due November 6 in class; final to canvas by midnight*
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 (20%)—due December 4 by midnight on canvas*
A multimodal “text” that persuades an audience using a combination of aural, visual, and/or written modes of communication.

*Final Portfolio (10%)—due December 11 by midnight on canvas*
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.

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. (I will provide you with more details about this process later in the semester.) Please 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.
Grading Scale

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<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% &amp; above</td>
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<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>87% – 92%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>82% – 86%</td>
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<td>BC</td>
<td>76% – 81%</td>
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<td>70% – 75%</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60% - 64%</td>
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<td>59% and below</td>
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If you receive a grade you are unsatisfied with, you will have the opportunity to rewrite ONE major assignment over the course of the semester. In addition to completely rewriting the assignment, you must also meet with me to discuss your revision plan and compose a 500 word reflection paper on the process. The rewrite is not guaranteed to result in a higher grade. — **Final rewrites can be submitted at any time, but must be completed and submitted no later than midnight on Dec. 11.**

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 not be accepted for items that fall into the participation category, except for peer reviews. For major projects/writing assignments, late work will receive a ten point deduction per hour it is late.

Late peer reviews will result in a 3% deduction of the reviewer’s final participation score for the class per day it is late, and must be submitted electronically either through canvas (if it is called for in the assignment) or email to the instructor and peer being reviewed.

The decision to extend a deadline or accept late work is at the instructor’s discretion. Students must turn in complete, final drafts of all major assignments in order to receive a passing course grade.

Class Policies
You will be expected to arrive to every class prepared, which includes bringing copies of all required texts to class with you. If you do not have a copy of the required text on the day it is needed, it will result in a deduction from that day’s participation grade. Additionally, you are expected to treat yourself, your classmates, and your instructor with dignity and respect.

**Attendance Policy:** Uninterrupted attendance at class meetings and in conferences with the instructor are mandatory. Three unexcused absences will be allowed. Each additional absence will result in one drop in letter grade per day. 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.

**Participation** will be graded on a daily basis through a variety of ways, including but not limited
to in class writings, having required course materials and being prepared for that day’s class, engaging in classroom discussion either by actively listening or participating.

Diversity is valued in this classroom. We are all members of an academic community where it is our shared responsibility to cultivate a climate where all individuals are valued and where both they and their ideas are treated with respect. If you feel your contributions are not being valued, please let the instructor know about it.

University Policies and Resources
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

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.

Disability Services: 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.

The Office of Institutional Equity and Inclusion:
http://www.mtu.edu/equity

Equal Opportunity, Discrimination, or Harassment Statement:
http://www.admin.mtu.edu/admin/boc/policy/ch5/

This syllabus is subject to change per the instructor’s discretion.