MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
Course Syllabus
UN1015 – Composition
Fall 2015, Section R16
MW 7:05 pm–8:20 pm. Walker 143

Instructor: Yunana Ahmed
Email: yunanana@mtu.edu
Office: Walker 149
Office hours: MW 3–4 pm

COURSE MATERIALS

Course Website: Canvas- http://www.courses.mtu.edu
Additional sources may be assigned.

COURSE OUTLINE

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. 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 posted at http://www.mtu.edu/assessment/program/university-learning-goals/
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.) 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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<td>3.50</td>
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Rhetorical Analysis Essay (15%): This is 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 Assignment (10%): This is a collection of documents that traces the steps of your research for the researched argument essay.

Researched Argument Essay (20%): This is 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.

Group Project (10%): This is a collaborative project that requires students to rhetorically review films assigned by the instructor.

Multimodal Project (20%): This (these) is/are (a) multimodal “text(s)” that persuades an audience using a combination of aural, visual, and/or written communicative modes.

Final Portfolio (10%): This is a digital collection of your best, final efforts at the Research Process Assignment, Researched Argument Essay and Multimodal Project. Though these are for program assessment purposes, they must be submitted in order to receive a final grade. Missing portfolios will result in an “T” (incomplete) grade.

Course Calendar

Week 1: Understanding texts rhetorically

M 08/31 Introduction/Review of Syllabus, Policies and Calendar/Form Groups/General discussions on writing composition and
Introduction to Rhetoric (Youtube: “In Defense of Rhetoric”)
Practicing Multimodal analysis (Music Video)

W 09/02 Strategies of argumentation: Classical, Rogerian and Toulmin
Occasions for arguments: Forensic, Deliberative, and Ceremonial
Purposes of arguments: inform, persuade, educate, convince etc.
Read “Unteaching the five paragraph Essay” by Marie Foley. On CANVAS
Week 2: Building a Framework for Reading and Writing

M 09/7  Labor Day Recess

W 09/09  Arguments and Rhetoric: Relationship between Purpose, audience, Context, and Text (Logos, pathos, ethos) Fallacies Read Chapter 1 (p. 3-30)

Rhetorical Analysis Essay assigned. Due 09/21

Week 3: Approaching Writing Situations (Read Chap. 2)

M 09/14  Using canon of rhetoric to understand argument: Invention, Arrangement, Style, Delivery

Incorporating strategies of persuasion into writing

W 09/16  Starting to Write (Chap. 3)

Search Your Memories and Experiences (Do Research, free write, brain storm, etc)

Moving from Ideas to a Draft (Free Draft, Mind Draft, Outline)

Group Project assigned. Due 10/19

Week 4: Structuring Your Text (Read Chap. 4)

M 09/21  Generating thesis statements for arguments

Generating productive topics and research questions

Choose Research Topics. Due 09/25

W 09/23  Writing an Introduction and Conclusion

Starting with a summary. Starting with a Story, Starting with: Dramatic Statement, Starting with an Abstract, Ending with a Summary

Week 5: Getting Information and Writing from Research (Read Chap. 7)

M 09/28  Class at the Library

W 09/30  synthesizing multiple perspectives of an issue in an argument.

Research practices and how to keep research log

Writing a formal Research proposal and annotated bibliography

Assignment write research proposal and annotated bibliography Due 10/7
Week 6: Finding and Documenting Research Sources
M 10/5 Primary and Secondary Sources
    Plagiarism and Citations (MLA/APA)

W 10/7 Quoting, paraphrasing and summarizing
    Analyzing published arguments
    Understanding Basic Principles of Technical Writing

Research Paper assigned. First draft due 10/23

Week 7: Designing Visual Texts (Read Chap. 5)
M 10/12 Some Basic Design Principles
W 10/14 Writing With other People (Chap. 8)

Week 8: Group Presentations on Film Reviews
M 10/19: Presentations
W 10/21: Presentations

Week 9: Revising Your Texts and Peer Review
M 10/26: Revising Your Texts (Read Chap. 9)
M 10/28: Peer Reviews
Second Draft Due 11/02

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Week 11: Introducing Multimodal Compositions and Designing Texts
M 11/9 Introduction to Multimodality and Multimodal tools
    Designing Cover Art for Digital Music (Designing Texts scenario 14 p. 292)
W 11/11 designing an Organization’s Graphic Identity (Read Scenario 15)

Multimodal Project assigned. Due 12/02
Week 12:  Introductions to Other Forms of Writing
M 11/23:  Resume/CV, Email, Cover Letter
W 11/25:  Informing an Audience (Writing a Profile for a Magazine) p. 280
Writing about Personal experience (Writing a Restaurant Review) p. 286

Final Draft Due 11/26

Week 13: Thanksgiving Recess

Week 14: Reviewing Multimodal Projects
M 11/30:  Peer and Self Reviews of Multimodal Projects
W 12/02:  Oral Presentations of Multimodal Projects

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