



UN1015: Composition

Mondays & Wednesdays 9:35 to 10:50, Walker 109

*Tuesdays & Thursdays, online via Canvas**

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Course Description

Written communication is an increasingly important part of our everyday lives, deeply affecting a range of social and professional contexts. In this class, we'll practice persuasive writing, academic research, and multimodal composition, while focusing on a familiar topic: games and toys. This is a *hybrid course*, which means we'll be splitting our course meeting time between face-to-face sessions in the classroom, and online work in Canvas. See below for more details.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- recognize and use several strategies for producing and interpreting persuasive texts
- write arguments for academic audiences
- compose arguments in creative, multimodal forms
- communicate effectively, especially in writing, to a variety of audiences
- identify a need for research
- procure and evaluate scholarly information by developing a research strategy

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 in Canvas.

Online/Offline Hybrid Course Structure

With the exception of Week 3 (which follows Memorial Day weekend), we will meet in 109 Walker on Mondays and Wednesdays only. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, you will conduct your work for this course entirely online using Canvas (<http://mtu.instructure.com>). Generally speaking, all online work on Tuesdays and Thursdays must be completed by **2:00pm**; however, whenever there is a peer review workshop on a project draft (such as the Rhetorical Analysis Essay draft, due in Week 2), you will be asked to post some work earlier in the day, so that your classmates will have time to review it

** Except for Week 3, when we will meet in class on Tuesday (5/27) and Wednesday (5/28).*

before the 2:00 deadline. For complete information on due dates/times and the online/offline meeting schedule, see the “Modules” page in Canvas.

Required Readings

Alfano, Christine L., and Alyssa J. O’Brien. *Envision: Writing and Researching Arguments*. 4th ed. New York: Pearson/Longman, 2013. Print.

(Other readings will be available in Canvas)

Graded Assignments

PARTICIPATION & PROCESS (40%)

Includes attendance, readings, discussions, class activities, drafts, peer reviews, and warm-up assignments. Most online class meeting activities are categorized here, and must be completed **by 2:00pm** on the day they are due to receive credit.

RHETORICAL ANALYSIS ESSAY (15%)—final draft due May 26th

A 1500-word essay that identifies the rhetorical elements of marketing materials for a toy or game designed for children.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY (10%)—due June 5th

A list of 4 scholarly sources that will support your research project, each with a detailed note describing the source’s contents, credibility, and uses for the project, as well as where the source was discovered.

RESEARCHED ARGUMENT ESSAY (25%)—final draft due June 23rd

A 2000- to 2500-word essay that makes an argument based on scholarly research (as represented in the annotated bibliography) on a question related to children’s toys and/or games.

3D MULTIMODAL REMIX (10%)—due June 25th

A small-scale reinvention of the research essay’s argument using three-dimensional alternative media, designed for a broader public audience.

Grading Scale

Note: Final course grades will be rounded to the nearest whole number (e.g., 91.4 = 91; 89.5 = 90).

A	100%	to	92%	AB	< 92%	to	88%
B	< 88%	to	80%	BC	< 80%	to	78%
C	< 78%	to	70%	CD	< 70%	to	68%
D	< 68%	to	60%	F	< 60%		

Attendance Policy

Uninterrupted attendance during our “live” class meetings is a requirement. Much of the course involves conversation about course readings and responding to classmates’ work; if you miss those conversations, you will have missed a good deal of the course content. Therefore, each absence from face-to-face meetings will result in a reduction of your final grade by 2 whole percentage points (e.g, an 85 becomes an 83); missing more than four class meetings will result in automatic failure of the course.

University Policies

Academic Integrity: Academic regulations and procedures are governed by University policy. Academic misconduct cases will be handled in accordance the University's policies.

<http://www.mtu.edu/dean/conduct/policy/academic-integrity>

Disability Services: Michigan Technological University complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office at 487-2212.

<http://www.mtu.edu/dean/disability/policies/>

Equal Opportunity, Discrimination, or Harassment: For concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, Chair/Dean of your academic unit or the Affirmative Programs Office at 487-3310.

<http://www.admin.mtu.edu/admin/boc/policy/ch5/>