

COURSE INFORMATION

- **GENERAL INFORMATION**

RTC graduate students can take any courses in the HU4000, HU5000, and HU6000 number ranges for credit. HU5000-level courses are the basic courses for graduate students; they offer the tools and background needed to do work and study in rhetoric and technical communication. The abbreviation "ST" in the 6000 level numbers stands for Special Topics. HU6000-level courses are explorations of various specific topics within the general rubric of the individual course title. HU5000- and HU6000-level courses are open to both master's and doctoral students.

Generally, HU4000-level courses are designed for undergraduates but may also be appropriate for graduate students. Graduate students can apply up to 9 credits of HU4000-level courses to their degree requirements with prior approval by the Graduate Director or their Advisory Committee Chair.

- **REQUIREMENTS**

Ph.D. required courses

All entering Ph.D. students are required to take the **HU5001 Proseminar**, which orients them to the faculty, fields of study, and methodologies represented in the RTC degree. Each graduate faculty member gives a presentation on their current research, their teaching and research interests, and entertains questions from the students about ways in which to make connections among various interests.

All students who receive aid through teaching must also take two semesters of the course, **HU5931 Oral, Written, and Visual Communication Pedagogy**, which begins with an intensive orientation seminar in the weeks before classes begin in the fall, and continues with weekly workshops through each of the first two semesters the student teaches.

New Ph.D. students are required to take the three first-year seminars; these explore the fields encompassed within the three streams of study:

- **HU5002 Rhetoric, Composition, & Literacy**
- **HU5003 Technical Communication/Technology Studies**
- **HU5004 Communication in Cultural Contexts.**

These courses focus on key issues that give a common ground of critical terminology, methodological underpinnings, and central readings upon which later work within the streams will build.

Beyond these required courses, the plan of study for the Ph.D. degree assumes seven more courses of advanced work in 5000-level topics or 6000-level special topics courses. (Up to three 4000-level courses, or 9 credits of transfer courses may be included, at the discretion of the students' advisory committees and/or the program director.) Ph.D. students must also show competence in a modern language at the level of entrance into the second year of study.

Students choose two streams of study in which to focus their coursework, planning (with the aid of their advisors) a major stream of study of at least three courses, and a minor stream of at least two courses. This leaves two elective courses, where students may choose (with the guidance and approval of the Director of Graduate Studies) to engage in more work to support their major or minor streams, to work within the third stream, or to take courses from cognate departments on campus. (See Chapter 3, Ph.D. Degree Requirements for more details.)

Master's required courses

All entering Master's students are required to take the **HU5001 Proseminar**, which orients them to the faculty, fields of study, and methodologies represented in the RTC degree. Each graduate faculty member gives a presentation on their current research, their teaching and research interests, and entertains questions from the students about ways in which to make connections among various interests.

All students who receive aid through teaching must also take two semesters of **HU5931 Oral, Written, and Visual Communication Pedagogy**, which begins with an intensive orientation seminar in the weeks before classes begin in the fall, and continues with weekly workshops through each of the first two semesters the student teaches.

New M.S. students are required to take at least two of the three first-year seminars which explore the common ground encompassed within the three streams of study (usually selecting the two seminars to match their choice of major and minor streams):

- **HU5002 Rhetoric, Composition, & Literacy**
- **HU5003 Technical Communication/Technology Studies**
- **HU5004 Communication in Cultural Contexts.**

These are not quick surveys of the broad areas encompassed under each stream, but instead focus on key issues that give a common ground of critical terminology, methodological underpinnings, and central readings that later work within the streams will assume and build upon.

Master's students then choose two streams of study in which to focus, constructing (with the aid of their advisors) a major stream of study of at least three more courses, and a minor stream of at least two more courses, before choosing one of three options to complete their Master's degree: thesis, project, or coursework. (See Chapter 2, Master's Degree Requirements for more details.)

STREAMS OF COURSES

The courses have been grouped together under three streams by their central focus:

- [R] Rhetoric, Composition, and Literacy
- [T] Technical Communication and Technology Studies
- [C] Communication in Cultural Contexts.

Note, however, that in keeping with the interdisciplinary nature of the department, many of the faculty and courses engage issues that span the different streams. Some courses are cross-listed (and may be counted once in either of the categories); such cross-listings are indicated after the course name in square brackets.

If you have a question about a course's stream designation, please see the Director of Graduate Studies.

The three major course streams are follows (see pp. 6.5 to 6.13 for full descriptions of the classes).

- **RHETORIC, COMPOSITION, & LITERACY [R] STREAM**

5020 Composition Theory

5021 Literacy Theory & Research

5030 Linguistic Analysis [C]

5070 History & Theory of Rhetoric I

5071 History & Theory of Rhetoric II

5090 Writing Literary Nonfiction

5091 Writing for Publication

5092 Grammar & Editing for Professionals
5100 Qualitative or Quantitative Humanistic Research Methods [TC]
5110 Background of Critical Theory [C]
5111 Critical Perspectives on the Environment [C]
5116 Rhetorics of Difference/Alterity [C]
5117 Theories of Language
5118 Theories of Pedagogy
6020 Special Topics in Composition
6070 Special Topics in Rhetoric
6001 Special Topics in RTC [stream to be determined by content]
6110 Special Topics in Contemporary Critical Theories [C]

- **TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY STUDIES [T] STREAM**

5011 Technology, Culture, and Communication
5080 Computer Applications in Technical Communication
5081 Writing Applications in Technical Communication
5100 Qualitative or Quantitative Humanistic Research Methods [RC]
5112 Critical Perspectives on Science & Technology
5115 Literacy, Technology, Society, & Education
6001 Special Topics in RTC [stream to be determined by content]
6080 Seminar in Technical Communication
6112 Special Topics in New Media

- **COMMUNICATION IN CULTURAL CONTEXTS [C] STREAM**

5010 Organizational Communication
5012 Communication Theory
5030 Linguistic Analysis [R]
5040 Reading Literature
5050 Intercultural Communication
5060 Issues in Social, Political, & Legal Philosophy
5100 Qualitative or Quantitative Humanistic Research Methods [RT]
5110 Background of Critical Theory [R]
5111 Critical Perspectives on the Environment [R]
5113 Cultural Studies
5114 Introduction to Visual Representation
5116 Rhetorics of Difference/Alterity [R]
6001 Special Topics in RTC [stream to be determined by content]

6010 Special Topics in Communication
6040 Special Topics in Literature
6050 Special Topics in Modern Languages and Literatures
6060 Special Topics in Philosophy
6110 Special Topics in Contemporary Critical Theories [R]
6111 Special Topics in Gender Studies
6114 Special Topics in Visual Representation

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

- **HU5000–LEVEL COURSES**

HU5001 Proseminar in Rhetoric and Technical Communication

An introduction to the scholarly issues, goals, and methods across the disciplinary areas represented in the Rhetoric and Technical Communication program. 1 credit, fall and spring.

HU5002 Rhetoric, Composition, and Literacy Studies

This course considers key theoretical, pedagogical, and historical issues and events that have linked the fields of rhetoric, composition, and literacy studies. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5003 Technical Communication and Technology Studies

This course considers key historical, pedagogical, practical, and theoretical issues in technical communication, scientific communication, and technology studies. Considerable attention is paid to practice and of technical communication and technology in academic and non-academic settings. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5004 Communication in Cultural Contexts

This course surveys key issues in how cultural contexts and processes of communication affect representation, understanding, and practice. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5005 Knowledge and Inquiry in the Humanities

This course considers a range of methods, methodologies, and approaches to research that inform scholarship in the RTC program, and provides grounds for future work. Approaches may include qualitative, ethnographic, quantitative, rhetorical, feminist, historiographic, hermeneutic, literary, and interpretive methods. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5010 Organizational Communication

Theoretical review of the role of communication in organizations. Emphasizes critical interpretive approaches. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU 5011 Technology, Culture, and Communication

Examines philosophical and theoretical concepts for understanding the cultural role of technology such as causality, determinism, progress, identity, agency, articulation, assemblage, social space, control, and change. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5012 Communication Theory

Traces the development of communication theories. Emphasizes interactions among theoretical, political, historical, and socio-cultural factors. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5020 Composition Theory

An introduction to such issues in composition theory as the relationships of thought to language, of spoken to written language, of reading to writing, of writing to learning, and of process to product. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

HU5021 Literacy Theory and Research

A study of the social, cultural, and ideological implications of literacy practices using a variety of historical, theoretical, and ethnographic accounts. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5030 Linguistic Analysis

The study of linguistic theories and methods for analyzing oral, written, and/or electronic texts. Topics may include how societies construct and are constructed through language; gender, ethnicity, power, class, and region in sociolinguistic variation; theories of discourse; pragmatics; semantics; and methods, ethics, and coding in data collection and analysis. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

HU5040 Reading Literature

An introduction to theoretical perspectives on the reading of literature in the context of considerations of particular literary texts. Will also include some discussion of the reading of non-literary texts. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5050 Intercultural Communication

A critical examination of cross-language and cross-cultural equivalences and differences through the study of acculturation, values, traditions, role expectations, perceptions, stereotypes, and gender issues as well as other verbal and non-verbal problems and issues of communication. Emphasizes the dimensions of communication within a comparative cultural context. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5060 Issues in Social, Legal, and Political Philosophy

An introduction to diverse issues in social, political and legal philosophy. Topics may include: the justification of social and political institutions; liberalism and its critics; democracy and consent; analysis of basic political and legal concepts; the nature of law and legal interpretation; critical evaluation of legal practices and theories. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5070 History and Theory of Rhetoric I

History and theory of rhetoric, focusing on ancient times but extending into the Middle Ages. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5071 History and Theory of Rhetoric II

History and theory of rhetoric, focusing on modern times but extending back to the Renaissance. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5080 Computer Applications in Technical Communication

An examination of how industry and educational institutions employ computers to create, design, and distribute information. Emphasis will be placed on such topics as interactive computer-assisted instruction, computerized telecommunications, word processing, document design, and graphics. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5081 Writing Applications in Technical Communication

A writing-intensive course focusing on special writing assignments for professional technical communicators, such as company annual report narratives and internal magazine articles, especially articles focusing on scientific and technical research. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5090 Writing Literary Nonfiction

Writing and editing nonfiction for publication in *Blue Ice Anthology*, a general interest journal published in the Department of Humanities. Course includes study of theory and techniques of literary nonfiction. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

HU5091 Writing for Publication

Practice in writing to the requirements of professional publications and in identifying the rhetorical considerations of writing for different publications. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

HU5092 Grammar and Editing for Professionals

An examination of the text-based decisions professional editors make as they write and polish manuscripts for publication. This course will include readings in the theoretical and ethical dimensions of language, syntax, and linguistics. Through practice on real documents, students will obtain strategies for text editing, acquire a professional vocabulary for communicating effectively with authors, and sharpen their grammar and proofreading skills. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5100 Qualitative or Quantitative Humanistic Research Methods

Course will address qualitative or quantitative methods. *Field Methods in the Humanities*: The three foundations of qualitative methods: participant observation, interviews, and cultural text analysis. Students will conduct preliminary research projects. *Quantitative Methods of Inquiry*: philosophical foundations of empirical research, structure of quantitative inquiry, modes of observation, and data analysis. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5110 Backgrounds of Critical Theory

Study of the major critical theories that have influenced contemporary theories such as feminist theory, postmodern theory, cultural studies, critical pedagogy, and discourse theory. The course focuses on primary texts in marxist theory, structuralism and poststructuralism, and phenomenology, and introduces students to the challenges of reading theoretical texts and texts in translation. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5111 Critical Perspectives on the Environment

Philosophical, rhetorical, literary or cultural studies approaches to the environment. Topics may include one or more of the following: environmental communication and advocacy; environmental ethics, law, and philosophy; environmental literary texts; etc. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5112 Critical Perspectives on Science and Technology

Philosophical, rhetorical, literary or cultural studies perspectives on science and technology. Topics may include one or more of the following: philosophy of science, philosophy of

technology, rhetoric of science, rhetoric of technology, etc. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5113 Cultural Studies

Introduction to the theoretical history, methods, and practice of cultural studies. Includes the influence of literary humanism, Marxism, structuralism, subcultural studies, feminism, postmodernism, articulation theory, Deleuze and Guattari. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5114 Introduction to Visual Representation

A critical survey of selected theoretical, philosophical, and methodological issues that inform various disciplinary perspectives on the study of the visual such as sociology, film and television theory, communication, and art history. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5115 Literacy, Technology, Society, and Education

This course examines the linkage between technology and literacy in the United States and the ways in which this linkage has been established in public schools, workplace programs, or university settings. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5116 Rhetorics of Difference/Alterity

A critical examination of discourses, theories and representations of "otherness" or "difference" according to race, gender, sexuality, class, age, nationality, ethnic background, and other socio-cultural categories. May include discussion of issues of self-representation within and among groups, the rhetorics of exile or diaspora, colonial and post-colonial constructions of identity and difference, etc. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5117 Theories of Language

Study of major theories of language that have influenced contemporary work on discourse, language, and literacy. The course focuses on language theorists from one or more of a variety of disciplines, such as philosophy, linguistics, literary studies, psychology, anthropology, and rhetoric. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5118 Theories of Pedagogy

Contemporary theories of pedagogy that influence current approaches to teaching writing, including feminist pedagogy, critical pedagogy, liberatory pedagogy, and psychological and developmental approaches to pedagogy. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

HU5900 Independent Study

Guided research under the direction of a member of the graduate faculty. Open to master's students in RTC only. Variable credit. Prerequisites: Students must file a plan of study and receive the Graduate Director's and faculty member's approval before registering for the class.

HU 5901 Directed Reading

Directed reading in a focused area under the direction of a member of the graduate faculty. Variable credit. Prerequisites: Students must file a plan of study and receive the Graduate Director's and faculty member's approval before registering for the class.

HU 5902 Internship

Work experience under the direction of a member of the graduate faculty. May be conducted on or off-campus. Work off-campus requires additional direction by an off-campus supervisor. Variable credit. Prerequisites: Students must file a plan of study and receive the Graduate Director's and faculty member's approval before registering for the class.

HU5931 Oral, Written, and Visual Communication Pedagogies

A year-long study of pedagogical techniques, technologies, evaluation, and assessment. Topics may include practical strategies and theories for effective teaching of rhetorical analysis, reflective speaking practices, critical visual design, and composition. Required of all graduate teaching instructors in their first year of teaching.

HU5932 Practicum in Teaching Technical Communication

GTAs who teach undergraduate classes in technical and scientific communication meet weekly with a mentor to discuss strategies for teaching the course, to read pertinent material, and to develop policy. Required of all GTIs new to teaching technical communication.

HU5933 Practicum in Modern Language Pedgagogy

Discussion and development of effective pedagogical practices and reading of research, scholarship and theory of modern language pedagogy. GTIs will observe modern language classes regularly and reflect on their own and others' practices. Required of all GTIs in the RTC program in their first year of language teaching at MTU.

HU5990 Thesis

Individual research of scholarship under the direction of a graduate faculty advisor. Open to master's students in RTC only. Variable credit. May be repeated for a total of 9 credits.

Prerequisites: Students must file a plan of study and receive the Director's and faculty member's approval before registering for the class.

HU5991 Special Projects

Individual projects under the direction of a graduate advisor. Open to master's students in RTC only. Variable credit. May be repeated for a total of 6 credits. Prerequisites: Students must file a plan of study and receive the Director's and faculty member's approval before registering for the class.

- **HU6000–LEVEL COURSES**

HU6001 Special Topics in RTC

The study of special topics in rhetoric, technical communication, and the humanities. Variable credit; may be repeated for a total of 9 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

HU6010 Special Topics in Communication

In-depth examination of topics in communication. May be repeated for a total of 9 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

HU6020 Special Topics in Composition

In-depth examination of theoretical perspectives on composing. May include discussion of current-traditional, expressivist, social constructionist, and postmodern perspectives. May be repeated for a total of 9 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

HU6040 Special Topics in Literature

Advanced study of topics in American, British, and world literature. May be repeated for a total of 9 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

HU6050 Special Topics in Modern Languages and Literatures

Advanced study of topics in modern languages and literatures. May include intercultural studies of non-English literature and film around an integrated theme, the study of non-English fiction and non-fiction with special attention to theoretical and critical approaches, or more applied studies such as language for special purposes, second-language acquisition, and translation. May be repeated for a total of 9 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

HU6060 Special Topics in Philosophy

Advanced study of selected topics in philosophy. Possible topics include philosophy of literature, philosophy of mind, continental European philosophy, analytic philosophy, theories of truth, philosophical issues in cognitive science, and contemporary feminist philosophy. May

be repeated for a total of 9 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

HU6070 Special Topics in Rhetoric

Advanced study of special topics in rhetorical theory or history, such as women in rhetorical history, the sophists, nonwestern rhetorics, Aristotelian rhetoric, cultural backgrounds to the history of rhetoric, and rhetorical criticism. May be repeated for a total of 9 credits.

Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

HU6080 Seminar in Technical Communication

May include study of the theoretical backgrounds of technical communication, the history of technical communication, rhetoric of technical communication, technical communication program administration, and technical communication pedagogy. May be repeated for a total of 9 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

HU6110 Special Topics in Contemporary Critical Theories

Study of particular contemporary theoretical perspectives that are influential in rhetoric and technical communication research. Topics might include cultural studies, theories of representation, feminist theory, marxist theory, postmodern theory or intensive study of influential individual theorists. May be repeated for a total of 9 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

HU6111 Special Topics in Gender Studies

An inquiry into the ways in which gender is constituted within and affects rhetorical, representational, and communicative processes, situations, and structures. May be repeated for a total of 9 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

HU6112 Special Topics in New Media

A study of the design and evaluation of interactive texts on the computer, with emphasis on critical and theoretical issues raised by the visibility, shifting word-image ratio, and interactivity possible on computer screens. May be repeated for a total of 9 credits.

Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

HU6114 Special Topics in Visual Representation

A critical examination of selected topics in visual representation, with an emphasis on the theoretical, industrial, cultural, international and national, and aesthetic contexts that inform an understanding of particular visual media. May include genre studies of such visual forms as advertising or documentary, audience analysis, reception theory and theories of

spectatorship, gender and visual representation, etc. May be repeated for a total of 9 credits.
Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

HU6900 Independent Study

Guided research under the direction of a member of the graduate faculty. Open to doctoral students in RTC only.

Variable credit. Prerequisites: Students must file a plan of study and receive the Graduate Director's and faculty member's approval before registering for the class.

HU6901 Directed Reading

Directed reading in a focused area under the direction of a member of the graduate faculty. Open to doctoral students in RTC only. Credit varies according to the nature of the reading.

Prerequisites: Students must file a plan of study and receive the Graduate Director's and faculty member's approval before registering for the class.

HU6902 Internship

Work experience under the direction of a member of the graduate faculty. Open to doctoral students in RTC only. May be conducted on or off campus. Work off campus requires additional direction by an off-campus supervisor.

Variable credit. Prerequisites: Students must file a plan of study and receive the Graduate Director's and faculty member's approval before registering for the class.

HU6990 Doctoral Research

By arrangement with the instructor directing the PhD dissertation. Enrollment is limited to those doctoral students who have successfully completed their dissertations. Variable credit.

COURSE SCHEDULE FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2009-2010

Table 6.2 below indicates the courses that will be taught during the 2009–2010 academic year. This schedule is subject to changes. Contact the Program Office about any changes before registering.

Table 6.1: 2009–2010 Graduate Course Schedule

Pedagogy (FALL AND SPRING)		
Course No.	Course Title	Instructor
HU5931	Practicum in Pedagogy: Oral, Written and Visual	Kitalong, K.
HU5932	Practicum in Technical Communication	Brady, A.
FALL SEMESTER OFFERINGS		
Course No.	Course Title	Instructor
HU5001	Proseminar in Rhetoric & Technical Communication	Flynn, E.
HU5002	Rhetoric, Composition, & Literacy	Flynn, E.
HU5030	Linguistic Analysis	Bergvall, V.
HU5110	Backgrounds of Critical Theory	Adolphs, D.
HU5112	Critical Perspectives on Science and Technology	Brady, A.
HU5116	Rhetorics of Difference/Alterity.	Thomas, K.
SPRING SEMESTER OFFERINGS		
Course No.	Course Title	Instructor
HU5004	Communication in Cultural Contexts	Bowler, M.
HU5003	Technical Communication and Technology Studies	Johnson, B.
HU6010	Special Topics in Communication	Sotirin, P.
HU6112	Special Topics in New Media	Anderson, W.
HU6114	Special Topics in Visual Representation	Shoos, D.

Extended descriptions for these courses are posted on the web at http://www.hu.mtu.edu/hu_dept rtc/course.html.