STS 3596 – Syllabus & Schedule

STS 3596  Pat Munday, PhD
Fall 2007  Eng Hall 209B
MWF 3 p.m.  Office Hours M 1 p.m. or by app’t

Required texts:  DeLuca, Image Politics.
Augusto Boal, Games for Actors and Non-Actors.
Turabian, A Manual for Writers.

Course Description
This is an upper division course in Society & Technology Studies. Our focus shall be on understanding both the context of and the conflicts engendered by technical decisions. Our analysis shall extend to historical as well as contemporary case studies.

This course is also designed to help you learn the process of researching and documenting a case study, and developing a research proposal. If you do not already have one, you should obtain at least one good style manual. Turabian’s A Manual for Writers is required, and the Harbrace College Handbook is a good additional choice.

We will also hone our communication skills through a documentary exercise in public political theatre.

Grading
Grading is based more or less equally on participation, the literature review, the research proposal, and a group project—a theatre/documentary “image event”.

Students will submit a formal undergraduate research proposal complete with a literature review. You will also make a formal presentation about your proposal. The subject of your proposal must be connected with the theme of this semester’s course, viz. the politics of visual communication and environmental discourse. There are many potential topics connected with remedy and restoration in Butte and the upper Clark Fork River basin.

The class revolves around meaningful discussion of the readings. Early in the semester, there will be lectures on Mondays (and occasionally on Wednesdays), with discussion of readings on Wednesdays and Fridays. As the semester progresses, I will lecture less and we will discuss and “enact” readings more. Come to class prepared. As we get toward the end of the class, the ball is in your lap, with students presenting their literature reviews and research proposals.

Class Participation  25%
Literature Review of a Case Study  25%
Undergraduate Research Proposal  25%
Theatre/Documentary Image Event  25%
STS 3596 – Syllabus & Schedule

STS 3596
Fall 2007
MWF 3 p.m.

Pat Munday, PhD
Eng Hall 209B
Office Hours M 1 p.m. or by app’t

Explanation of Grading Components

- Participation:
  - attending class regularly
  - being prepared to actively engage in discussion
  - leading assigned workshop exercises from Boal

- Literature Review:
  - well organized with introduction, critical body, and conclusion
  - proper use of Turabian footnotes
  - approximately 1,500 words (not including bibliography)
  - double-spaced, 12-point font, 1” margins, pages numbered
  - introduction as a concise statement of your research proposal
  - body as a well-organized critical analysis with sub-headings
  - body based on primary sources and scholarly literature
  - conclusion as a work plan of what you intend to accomplish or add to the literature

- Undergraduate Proposal:
  - based on what you learned from the literature review
  - follow the format and meet all criteria for Montana Tech’s undergraduate research program

- Theatre/Documentary Image Event
  - based on Boal and DeLuca texts
  - group project, incl. story boarding, scripting, props, production, and editing
  - posted as a 3 minute video on YouTube & presented to the Montana Tech community
STS 3596 – Syllabus & Schedule

STS 3596
Fall 2007
MWF 3 p.m.

Pat Munday, PhD
Eng Hall 209B
Office Hours M 1 p.m. or by app’t

Schedule

Week 1 (20 Aug)
- Course Introduction
- Lecture: “Theories” for the Politics of Technical Decisions
- Readings: “Technocracy (bureaucratic)” at Wikipedia
  “Augusto Boal” at Wikipedia

Week 2 (27 Aug)
- Lectures: How do politics & technology intersect?
  Theatre of the Oppressed
- Readings: Boal, Ch 1, “Theatre of the Oppressed in Europe”
  Boal, Ch 4, “The Early Forms of Forum Theatre”
- Researching a case study topic: Library Orientation

Week 3 (03 Sept)
- Lecture: Is technology autonomous?
- Brainstorm research proposal topics – see
  http://www.mtech.edu/research/undergrad/undergraduate_research.html including links
to Application, Guidelines, and Current and Past Projects.
- Workshop: Theatre of the Oppressed
- Reading: Boal, Ch 2, “The Structure of the Actor’s Work”

Week 4 (10 Sept)
- Lecture: Technology as a form of politics.
- Workshop: exercises for actors; dialectical structure of a role
- Reading: Boal, Ch 3, “The Arsenal of Theatre of the Oppressed,” pp. 48-91
- Due: Case Study Research Proposal: 250-word narrative plus
  bibliography including two or more books and five or more “peer-reviewed” professional journal articles.

Week 5 (17 Sept)
- Lectures: Technology as world shaping.
- How to review the literature for a topic.
- Workshop: Exercises from Boal, Ch 3, part 1
- Reading: Boal, Ch 3, “The Arsenal of Theatre of the Oppressed,” pp. 92-114
Week 6 (24 Sept)
- Lecture: The “consumption” of information.
- Workshop: Exercises from Boal, Ch 3, part 2
  “Precautionary Principle” at Wikipedia

Week 7 (01 Oct)
- Lectures: Science and Politics
  Risk Communication; Precautionary Principle
- Workshop: Exercises from Boal, Ch 3, part 3
- Reading: Boal, Ch 3, “The Arsenal of Theatre of the Oppressed,” pp. 129-171

Week 8 (08 Oct)
- Workshop: Exercises from Boal, Ch 3, part 4
- Reading: Boal, Ch 3, “The Arsenal of Theatre of the Oppressed,” pp. 171-240

Week 9 (15 Oct)
- Lecture: Putting the “research” in research proposal.
- Workshop: Exercises from Boal, Ch 3, part 5
  Discussion of DeLuca, “Participatory democracy” and
  “Audiences, dissemination, and contexts.”

Week 10 (22 Oct)
- Discussion: “Making Waves”
- Brainstorm group image event integrating theatre and film documentary
- Reading: DeLuca, “The Rhetoric of Social Movements,” pp. 23-44
- **Due:** Literature review (about 1500 words) with footnotes. Bibliography (not included in word total) must include 20 or more scholarly sources. The first introductory paragraph of the lit review is a brief summary of your proposal.
STS 3596 – Syllabus & Schedule

ST5 3596
Fall 2007
MWF 3 p.m.

Pat Munday, PhD
Eng Hall 209B
Office Hours M 1 p.m. or by app’t

Week 11 (29 Oct)
• Discussion: “The Rhetoric of Social Movements”
• Workshop: Storyboard group image event
• Reading: DeLuca, “Imaging Social Movements,” pp. 45-60

Week 12 (05 Nov)
• Lecture: Defining the modern object/postmodern subject.
  The question of essentialism revisited.
• Discussion: “Imaging Social Movements”
• Workshop: Choreograph & script group image event
• Reading: DeLuca, “The Possibilities of Nature in a Postmodern Age,” pp. 61-83

Week 13 (12 Nov)
• Lecture: Examples of image events
• Discussion: “The Possibilities of Nature”
• Workshop: Choreograph & script group image event
• Reading: DeLuca, “Participatory Democracy in Enemy Territory,” pp. 85-118

Week 14 (19 Nov)
• Discussion: “Participatory Democracy”
• Workshop: Rehearse group image event
• Reading: DeLuca, “Rhetoric and Social Change in a Postmodern Context,” pp. 146-163
  • Due: Draft of undergraduate research proposal.

Week 15 (26 Nov)
• Discussion: “Rhetoric and Social Change”
• Final shoot: Group Image Event

Last Class (03 Dec)
• Critique “rough cut” of video image event
• Attendance required

Final presentation of the edited (“final cut”) video image event to the Montana Tech community & video posted to YouTube: 9 am, Thursday, 06 December 2007.