Hu 101t
First-year English Transition
Walker, room 144
11.05 a.m. to 11.55 a.m. on MWF
Spring Term, 2000

Instructor: Wilailuck Suvachittanont
Office location: Walker 148
Office phone: 487-3279
E-mail address: wsuvachi@mtu.edu
Office hours: MWF 1-2 p.m., other times by appointment

Required texts:


Course Description:
Hu 101t is primarily a reading and writing course which introduces you to academic writing and arguments. Your work will involve learning and practicing written communication strategies: strategies that you will need to apply throughout your education, and professional career.

Course Goals and Objectives:
The goal of this course is to learn how to develop complex ideas and arguments through thoughtful consideration of different perspectives. It will help you understand how individuals negotiate their choices in life with the social, cultural, and political contexts that surround you. We will accomplish this goal by reading, discussing, and writing about contemporary social issues, beginning with controversies over technology and culture. We will use these areas of study in order to develop theories that might help us to explain how individuals negotiate our choices in life with social, cultural and political contexts that surround us.

Assignments
Writing assignments will range from informal (journals, reading responses, in-class activities) to formal. For the informal assignments, I will either provide detailed instructions and due dates in class or give you a handout. The formal assignments are briefly outlined below. You will also receive a more detailed handout on each of the assignments as we move through the sequence as follows:
- Five responses based on the readings
- Annotated bibliography and interview project
- A 4-5 page exploratory paper
- A final 8 page deliberative paper on a subject you put together from some essays in Reading Culture and your own interest about the "generation" from different sources.
- A revision of the 8-10 page deliberative paper

Course Requirements:
- Attendance, participation, and conference
- Responses and other assignments
- An exploratory and a deliberative paper
- Peer responses

All requirements must be met to pass class
Grading:
Grading in this course may be somewhat different than what you are accustomed to. I will not provide a "letter" grade for individual assignments. You will receive a midterm grade report during the sixth week of the quarter. You must save all of the assignments completed this term in your course portfolio, which you will turn in prior to midterm grading and again at the end of the term (see Course Portfolio handout for further details). Altogether, your course grade will be based on the following criteria:

50% based on Participation, which includes:
- attendance & conferences (10%)
- small group work (10%)
- class discussion (15%)
- peer response (5%)
- individual presentation (10%)

Participation in and regularly attending class demonstrates commitment and responsibility towards your own learning process. To be more specific, you need to "take the course" not just turn in a few papers. Participation means completing assignments on time, coming to class prepared, being an active group member, and contributing to class discussions.

Attendance is strongly recommended. A lot of valuable information and ideas can be generated during class discussions, and you will miss an opportunity to take advantage of it. If you cannot make it to class, please notify me before class if possible. Please Note: You are allowed to miss two class sessions per quarter; subsequent absences will affect your final grade.

50% based on Portfolio, which includes:
- in-class (short) writing (2.5%)
- response papers (10%)
- A 5 page exploratory paper (15%)
- A final deliberative paper and a revision (8-10 pages) (20%)
- Cover letter or memo for portfolio (2.5%)

All assignments are due as listed on the syllabus. Paper turned in late for the Peer response group will affect your final grade in this course.

The Writing Center
The Writing Center, located in room 107 of the Walker Arts and Humanities Building, is open for walk-in assistance and weekly half-hour appointments. I encourage you to stop in and talk over your writing with a coach, or sign up for a regular weekly appointment if your schedule allows.

Student Athletes
University policy requires all athletes to inform their instructors of excused, game-related absences for the whole quarter during the first week. If this policy applies to you, please provide this information in a memo that includes your name, social security number, athletic activities, coach's name, and his or her phone number.

Counseling Services
If any time you feel the need to speak with a professional counselor, contact Counseling Services at the Hamar House (the little white residence in the center of campus), 7-2538.
MTU's Policy on Discrimination and Harassment

MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need reasonable accommodation for equal access to education and services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students (7-2212). For other concern about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (7-3310).

MTU's Policy on Academic Integrity

Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses. MTU's Academic Integrity Policy defines it as "knowingly copying another's work or ideas and calling them one's own or not giving proper credit or citation," and it covers copying sections or entire papers form printed or electronic sources as well as handing in papers written by students for other classes or purchasing academic papers. Plagiarism and cheating not only are dishonest but cheat you out of learning, the primary reason you are here. If you ever have questions about this issue, please talk with me or consult a coach in the Writing Center.
Hu 101 Tentative Course Schedule
Section R12, Spring 2000

Week 1
3/6  -- Introductions
      -- Course Information
      -- Reading assignment: *A Guide to Succeeding in First-Year English* (8-23, 32-43)
3/8  -- Discuss: *A Guide to Succeeding in First-Year English*
      -- Strategies for reading and understanding a complicated text
      -- Discuss: the writing process
3/10 -- Reading exercise
      -- Discuss Exploratory paper (4-5 pages) and Deliberative writing
      -- Reading assignment: "Youth and American Identity" (59-62)

Week 2
3/13 -- Discuss: Youth and American Identity and response due
      -- Reading assignment: "Teenage Wasteland" (63-67)
3/15 -- Discuss: Teenage Wasteland
      -- Reading assignment: "TV's Teenagers: An Insecure, World-Weary Lot" (78-82)
      -- Reading assignment: "Juvenile Delinquency Films" (85-90)

Week 3
3/20 -- Discuss "Juvenile Delinquency Films"
      -- Reading assignment: "My music" (91-99) and interviewing project
3/22 -- Discuss "My music," and interview project due
      -- Reading assignment: "Beauty... and the Beast of Advertising"
3/24 -- Discuss "Beauty... and the Beast of Advertising" and response due
      -- Annotated bibliography assignment

Week 4
3/27 -- Library visit
      -- Annotated bibliography due
3/29 -- Movie
3/31 -- Movie; discussion

Week 5
4/3  -- Exploratory paper (4-5 pages) due; in class peer response (idea exchange)
      -- Annotated bibliography assignment due
      -- Portfolio discussion
4/5  -- Conferences; class canceled; portfolio due
4/7  -- Conferences; class canceled ; portfolio due
Week 6
4/10 -- Midterm Evaluations
   -- Discuss: Deliberative paper (8-10 pages)

4/12 -- Develop writing strategies, arguments and questions for the paper
   -- Source analysis
   -- Reading assignment: "How College Students Choose Majors"
   -- A Guide to Succeeding in First-Year English (24-25) assignment

4/14 -- Discuss "How College Students Choose Majors," and response due
   -- Reading assignment: "TV Families: Three Generations of Packaged Dreams"

Week 7
4/17 -- Draft 1 with cover memo due; in class peer response
   -- Working on writing: Quotation tips, transitional expressions, etc.

4/19 -- Discuss "TV Families: Three Generations of Packaged Dreams"
   -- Reading assignment: "Article about kids and violence"

4/21 -- Discuss reading assignment and response due

Week 8
4/24 -- Writing Workshop

4/26 -- Writing Workshop

4/28 -- Draft 2 with cover memo due; in class peer response

Week 9
5/1 -- Conferences; class canceled

5/3 -- Conferences; class canceled

5/5 -- Presentations

Week 10
5/8 -- Presentations

5/10 -- Presentations

5/12 -- Presentations

Finals Week
5/17 -- Deliberative paper and portfolio due

Note: I reserve the right to revise the syllabus and/or course schedule to better serve the needs of the students and the course.