HU101t: A Course in Reading and Writing

Section R07, Winter 1999
WAHC 144, MWF 1:05-1:55 pm
Instructor: Cynthia Weber-Brownell

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Course Description
In this course, we will focus on reading and understanding complex writing and imagery, concentrating on representations of social position, race, and gender. In our lives as students, as professionals, and as citizens, we are confronted with many different forms of writing every day. Whether it is a website, magazine article, film, or professional journal, to understand the information presented and form a position, it's to our advantage to analyze the writing and visual representations, and ask questions regarding the purpose of the writing.

The primary goals of this class are to help you begin to think about reading and writing differently, to engage in discussion on complex issues, and provide tools to assist you in your own writing.

This course is the first of two that will fulfill your general education requirements. The second course, "Revisions: Oral, Written, and Visual Communication," will be offered next year.

Course Objectives
- Discover ways of reading complex writing, known as "rhetorical analysis"
- Identify ways to analyze various strategies used in writing, the author's use of strategy, and how this could apply to your own writing
- Broaden your understanding of different perspectives on issues related to our readings
- Explore and examine visual representations and their relationship to writing
- Investigate ways to improve your own writing

Required Materials
You will also need a "writing journal" — a dedicated folder — to gather together your responses and writings in this class. You will need this by the second day of class.

Grading and Assignments
Your final grade will be calculated on the following scale:
- Class participation 30%
- Responses and first essay 30%
- Final paper 40%

All assignments are due on the day they are assigned. If you know you will be absent, it is your responsibility to turn in assignments prior to class. You are also responsible for assignments given on the day you are absent — see a classmate for details or e-mail me in advance. Late papers will be accepted until 5 pm of the day they are due; anything after that point will receive only partial credit (barring special circumstances such as illness). You must complete all assignments to receive a passing grade in this course.

Participation
Class participation is a very important part of this course. We will be relying heavily on discussion and group activities to explore the readings and images, investigate the author's intention and argument, and improve our writing skills. To benefit fully, you will need to be actively involved. I am interested in what you have to say, and I look forward to your participation.
Attendance
Class attendance is integral to your understanding of the reading material and contributing to and learning from your fellow students. Attendance is strongly encouraged. Many of the exercises will take place within the classroom and will be difficult, if not impossible, for you to recreate. You are responsible for completing all assignments, whether or not you attend class. Please see me prior to the absence if possible, or immediately following, and consult your assignment sheets. You are allowed only two unexcused absences this quarter; subsequent absences will affect your grade.

Excused absences (illness, official university activity, family emergency) are allowed under university policy. If you are seeking an excused absence because of illness, you must bring a note from the person who is treating you. If you are involved in an official university activity that conflicts with the class, you must notify me prior to the absence and bring official notification from the Dean of Students or appropriate department.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is considered cheating, and is a serious academic offense. 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, major ideas, or entire papers from printed or electronic sources as well as handing in papers written by other students. Please read the information on plagiarism (pages 32-33) in the Guide to Succeeding in First-Year English. If you ever have further questions about this issue, please talk to me or consult a coach in the Writing Center (7-2007).

Policy on Discrimination and Harassment
MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. If you 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 concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (7-3310).

Course Schedule
The following is a basic outline of the coursework for this class. Specific assignments, activities, and other readings will be in addition to what is listed here. All information is subject to change depending on class needs.

| Week 1       | 11/29 | Introductions  | Auster, "Portrait of an Invisible Man" (50-99) |
|             | 12/1  | Discuss Auster |                                           |
|             | 12/3  | Reading response due | Griffin, "Our Secret" (404-454) |
| Week 2      | 12/6  | Discuss Griffin |                                            |
|             | 12/8  | Reading response due | Woolf, "A Room of One's Own" (748-775) |
|             | 12/10 | Discuss Woolf   |                                            |
| Week 3      | 12/13 | Reading response due | Walker, "In Search of Our Mother's Gardens" (694-706) |
|             | 12/15 | Discuss Walker  | Berger, "Ways of Seeing" (104-132)         |
|             | 12/17 | Reading response due | Discuss Berger  |
|             |      | Bordo, "Hunger as ideology" (139-171)  |
Week 4
12/20 Library Day — meet in the Van Pelt Library

Research Assignment
12/22 NO CLASS

-BREAK-
1/7 Reading response and research assignment due

Review Bordo responses
Essay topic generation
Coles, "The Tradition: Fact and Fiction" (175-217)

Week 5
1/10 Discuss Coles, Bordo
1/12 Discuss Coles

First essay draft — peer critique

1/14 First essay due

Mid-term Portfolio due

Week 6
1/17 Student Conferences
1/19 Student Conferences
1/21 Essay topic generation

Percy, "The Loss of Creature" (565-581)

Week 7
1/24 Paper proposal due

Discuss Percy
Rich, "When We Dead Awaken: Writing as Re-Vision" (603-620)
1/26 Discuss Rich
1/28 Annotated Bibliography due

Discuss readings

Week 8
1/31 Rough Draft of final paper — peer critique

Writing techniques
2/2 First draft of final paper
2/4 NO CLASS — WINTER CARNIVAL

Week 9
2/7 Student Conferences
2/9 Student Conferences
2/11 Student Conferences

Week 10
2/14 Writing Workshop
2/16 Writing Workshop
2/18 Writing Workshop

Goodbyes and Evaluations

Final (revised) paper and Portfolio due Monday, 2/21