Revisions: verbal, visual and written communication

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Class Location: Douglass Houghton Hall, Room G044.
Office hours: Monday 2-3 and Thursday 4-5.

So, why exactly am I here and what am I supposed to learn?

Revisions, otherwise known as UN2001, is required for all Sophomores under the University's General Education Curriculum. This course is designed to help you learn how to enhance/complement your writing with visual and verbal forms of communication, understand and experience the composing process in written, visual and verbal communication, as well as to experience a range of written, visual, and verbal genres. These goals will be accomplished by completing a multi-genre project. (If you think I am talking in French, don’t worry about it. We will be discussing what I just said in English early on in the class.)

Do actually have to buy books for this class?

Absolutely! What is a class without a few expensive books? We will be using Revisions: Oral, Written, and Visual Communication by Lynch, Weber, Wysocki, and Jasken, and The Non-Designer's Design Book by Robin Williams. (Not that Robin Williams.)

Do really have to show up for class, and if do, do have to say anything?

Well, I suppose that if you don’t enjoy taking classes over and over again, you might want to consider showing up and participating. Much of the work we will do in this class is based on collaboration and group work, and if you slack off and don’t show up you will certainly have some irate classmates. Besides risking that, you will also be docked half a grade for each unexcused absence. I suppose I can give you 2 unexcused absences. Make that 3. That way my conscience won’t hurt me too badly when I start drastically lowering grades. And don’t even think I don’t mean it!

I hate conferences. Am I going to have to sit across from you in your office to talk one-on-one? I will have to look at you. Yuck.

Thank you very much. I appreciate the complement. It is a known fact that the more students communicate and interact with their instructors, the better their grades. I would strongly suggest you come talk to me if you have any questions or comments concerning assignments or anything else that might come up in our class discussions. Not only don’t I bite, but I keep a candy jar on my desk at all times.

Am I going to be lucky enough to get one of those liberal teachers who don’t believe in grades?

Sorry, Charlie/Charlotte. You are just plum out of luck on that one. I admit to being royally liberal, but I have to draw the line somewhere. Besides, the University needs a grade so they have something to put on your transcripts. Unfortunately, I do not, I repeat, do not accept late work. Unless, of course, you have an incredibly good excuse. (Although there is the possibility of earning a few extra bonus points for coming up with an excuse that keeps me laughing for at least an hour.)

So you grade us, How?

Here’s the setup, and please remember that we will go over these in more detail as we go along:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response Journal</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Projects</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed Portfolio</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| PARTICIPATION            | 10%    | (Pay attention to this one!!)
I am taking 18 credits and am already thinking a nervous breakdown is right around the corner. Can you at least tell me what major assignments we will have and when they will be due?

I can do more than that. I can also tell you about the counseling services offered at Tech. They are wonderful. Use them if you need to. That's what they are there for. As far as assignments go, the following is a tentative schedule of the major ones, which, of course, means I reserve the right to make adjustments. I will assign weekly readings and projects as we move through the semester.

Week 7  Midterm evaluation
Week 8  Written and oral presentation of the progress of your multi-genre project
Week 11 Written progress report of your research paper
Week 13 A rough draft of your research paper
Thanksgiving break – YIPEEE
Week 14 Research paper component of the multi-genre project
Week 15 Final presentations
Finals  Completed portfolio, including all projects and response journal

Why does everyone keep harping on plagiarism and what’s up with academic integrity?

Well… plagiarism is considered cheating, and is a serious academic offense. It is defined 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. More to the point, plagiarism prevents you from learning, which has the potential to make your future classes more difficult. Who really needs that? If you have any questions, please talk to me or consult the Writing Center.

I’ve never heard of the Writing Center. What is it and are you going to make me go there?

The Writing Center, located in Walker 107, is there to assist you if you are having problems with assignments that deal with verbal, visual or written communication. Hmm. Does that sound familiar? I strongly suggest you take advantage of this wonderful resource. You can find more information at http://www.hu.mtu.edu/wc/. If you need help finding the place, let me know. My office is in the same building.

This is the 21st century. Am I to believe that discrimination and harassment still exist?

Yeah, I guess you better believe it. MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. 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 (487-2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (487-3310).