UN 2001 Revisions, Section R08  MTU  Fall 2002

Class Meets: M, W, F 11:05-11:55  
Room: Wadsworth G11W  
Instructor: Diane Miller  
Office: Walker 314  
Office Telephone: 487-3237  
Home Telephone: 487-6943  
E-mail: dimiller@mtu.edu

Office Hours: Monday 8-9 a.m., Wednesday, noon-1 p.m., and other times by appointment.

Required Materials:

- Two folders or similar containers to hold copies of your portfolio
- Suggested: a style manual/reference handbook of your choice

Course Description:

The goal of UN 2001 Revisions is to provide opportunities to practice oral, written, and visual communication. While enhancing speaking, writing, listening, and seeing abilities, you can make personal discoveries and help an audience (the rest of the class) understand what you know. In this class, speeches, essays, and attention to the visual will help us explore, analyze, and communicate the choices we make that determine our impact on the world. We will ask ourselves this question:

What one ongoing practice could I adopt that would improve a situation, preserve a positive aspect of the world, lessen negative impact, or increase happiness?

Each of us will:

- Discover and focus on our own practice critical to our desired impact on an important issue. For example, you could choose to reduce your landfill contributions, find a spiritual practice, be kinder to your elders, consume fewer resources, or stop smoking. These are only examples.

- Use four major assignments to explore our practice and its surrounding issues, and share what we know with an audience (the rest of the class!). We’ll create each assignment by building on the previous ones, even using the same data when appropriate. We’ll revise until they’re beautiful. The collected polished assignments will make up our portfolios (and establish us as experts on our topics!). Here are the assignments:
  - **Expressive essay**—helps us relate personally to the issue
  - **Speech**—shares our excitement with the class and develops a vital skill
  - **Persuasive research essay**—justifies our positions, provides global context for ideas, analyzes potential impact, convinces others
  - **Group presentation**—challenges us to organize and present our individual findings in meaningful combinations. Together, we’ll decide on groups by
topic, intended audience, purpose, or theme, for example. You will be amazed at how well we can help each other with this work!

- Participate in frequent, not-so-major, but very important activities, such as reading, brief writing, and discussions. We'll increase our understanding, help ourselves and each other facilitate major projects, and increase visual awareness.

- Maintain a positive attitude toward our own and others' work. I encourage you to celebrate your accomplishments and appreciate opportunities for improvement. Please ignore inclinations to speak—or even think—negatively about your work.

**Other Stuff:**

**Attendance:** We are expected to be present every time class meets. If you are absent due to severe illness, death, or other unavoidable disaster, I will need documentation (doctor's or dean's letter, funeral notice, etc.). If you need to be away for a university-sponsored activity or other foreseeable event, please contact me beforehand to negotiate appropriate arrangements for sharing your work. If you decide not to show up, and then don't communicate about it, you will have made the decision to lower your final grade.

**Grading:** If we focus on opportunities to learn, share, and do our best, our grades will likely take care of themselves. It's impossible to receive a low grade if you come to class, work hard, and communicate with me. And you probably wouldn't be in college if you didn't expect to come to class, work hard, and communicate with your instructors, right? Anyway, since you probably want to know, here's how your grade is figured:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercises/Practices</th>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Portfolio (four major projects, graded after opportunities for feedback and revision)</th>
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**Note:** You must complete all assignments if you want to pass the course.

**Academic Integrity:** MTU's Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as "knowingly copying another's work or ideas and calling them one's own or not giving proper credit or citation." Examples include copying sections, major ideas, or entire papers from other sources (print, the internet, or other students, for example) and calling them your own. You can get kicked out of school for doing this. We will talk more about plagiarism. Questions? Please contact me or call the Writing Center at 7-2007.

**Disabilities and Discrimination:** If you have a disability and need reasonable accommodation for equal access to education and services, please call Dr. Gloria Melton. If you have discrimination concerns, please contact your advisor, your department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office at 7-3310.
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