Course Description
This class is designed to help you develop and strengthen your communicative abilities and understandings. We will, as the title of the course suggests, be looking at how oral, written, and visual communication can work together to effectively communicative messages in given situations. The goals of this course are to get you to look beyond the mechanics of communication and into the how and why of communication. To do this, we will be performing rhetorical analyses of communication so that we can understand how and why creators of communication make the choices that they make. In turn we will learn to make careful choices when we create a piece of communication.

Course Materials
You will need the following materials for this course:

• Reading Culture: Contexts for Critical Reading and Writing - George & Trimbur
• The Non-Designer’s Design Book - Williams
• The Little, Brown Essential Handbook for Writers - Aaron

Goals for this class:
• Learn how to enhance/complement writing with visual and oral forms of communication.
• Understand and experience the composing process in written, visual, and oral communication.
• Acquire extensive practice in revising written, visual, and oral communication.
• Experience a range of written, visual, and oral genres and understand how a writer’s purpose and sense of audience shape these genres.
• Acquire practice in rhetorical analysis and critical reasoning.
• Learn how to conduct, communicate, and document research for a substantial piece of argumentative writing.

Attendance Policy
Because so much of this course requires you to collaborate with your classmates, being in class is essential. More than three absences will lower your grade and more than six absences will result in automatic failure of the course. You will be given a tardy if you arrive more than five min. late to the class, and three tardies will equal one absence. If you arrive over 25 minutes after class has begun or sleep through it, you will be given a full absence. If you can’t be in class, you are responsible for finding out from someone else what you missed and what is due in the next class period. I am much more forgiving of absences if you are responsible about the situation.
Assignments & Projects

Your grade is based on class, individual, and group participation and projects in written, oral, and visual assignments. You will be doing a wide variety of assignments to strengthen your practices in all of these areas. Therefore, every part of this class is important and all assignments, big and small will be included in your final portfolio. Do not lose or throw anything away. Every project will be due on a Monday and the weekly reading responses will be due on Wednesdays.

All of the assignments will be given in class, but are also available on the web at:

http://www.arctictempest.com/un2001r5/schedule

Weekly Reading Responses - Every Wednesday - 120 points

Each week you will have at least one reading assignment assigned to you. These readings will be assigned in class, but will also be available on the schedule of the class web page. Each week, starting second week, you will have a one-page paper due on one of the readings. In this paper you will tell me the important aspects of the article you have chosen to write about, and how the reading helps achieve the goals of this class. These are NOT summaries and they are not full-blown essays. Instead, they are opportunities for you to work out informally the article’s ideas and your reactions. There will be 12 responses due, but there is the option of doing up to 14, each worth 10 points. More details will be given about the weekly responses in class.

Image Reflection Project - September 22 - 100 points

This project is a reflection and critical analysis of an image or a series of images. The project will consist of a three to five page paper and a two minute presentation on your findings. Further information will be provided during the second week of class.

Visual Argument Project - October 20 - 100 points

This project will give you the chance to create your own visual argument. Using many of the design features from the Style chapter in Reading Cultures and the Non-Designer's Design Book, you will create your own visual argument. This project will include your visual argument and a two to three page explanation about the choices you made. Further information will be provided during the fifth week of class.

Storytelling (Group Project) - November 17 - 100 points

Storytelling has become an important part of communicating with others. This group project will show your ability to tell a tale through story boarding, film scene creation, and much more. You will take a story, either one you create or a common tale, and create a film outline to be shot at a future time. The story will have to be approved by me and can not be a story that has already had a film adaptation. Further information and specifics as to what is due will be provided during the ninth week of class.
Portfolio - December 15 - 80 points
This project will allow you the chance to prove that you have attained all of the goals set by the course. You will structure your portfolio in a way that proves you have learned the technique of design and communication through written, visual, and oral mediums. Further guidelines and details will be given to you during the thirteenth week of class.

Class Assignments and Participation - Daily - 200 points
Participation in class is the most important part of this class. Each assignment during class will be worth points as well as the ability to participate in class discussion. Further details and guidelines will be given during the second week of the course.

Late Papers & Projects
Late papers will not be accepted unless arrangements are made. Regardless, not turning in a paper on time could result in the lowering of your grade.

Grading Policy
All of the projects and assignments total 700 points. Each project is worth 100 points, each reading response 10 points, the portfolio 80 points, and class assignments and participation 200 points. You must complete all assignments to receive a passing grade in this course. At the end of the semester I will add up all of your points and then divide them by the number of total points available (700). The percentage will then be converted into a letter grade by the following scale:

A = 93%-100%  
AB = 89%-92%  
B = 83%-88%  
BC = 79%-82%  
C = 73%-78%  
CD = 69%-72%  
D = 63%-68%  
F = 0%-62%

MTU's Policy on Academic Integrity
Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses. They are defined by this policy as "knowingly copying another's work or ideas and calling them one's own or not giving proper credit or citation," and this policy covers copying sections or entire papers from 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 prime reason you are here. If you ever have questions about this issue, please talk with your instructor or consult a coach in the Writing Center (7-2007).

MTU's 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 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).

I reserve the right to change this syllabus at any time during this semester.