Course Overview
The goal of this semester is to study how we, as individuals and as groups, use communication to interpret and contribute to our collective culture. The study methods for this highly participatory class include reading, writing, research, discussion, collaboration, and working with visual imagery. Assignments provide the material for your end product: your cultural autobiography. Be prepared to question, speculate, and change your mind again & again. Welcome!

Books
• Reading Culture. Diana George & John Trimbur, Fifth Edition—2004
• The Non-Designer’s Design Book. Robin Williams—1994

Conferencing
Drop by my office whenever—or make an appointment; you’re always welcome! Please conference with me at least twice during the semester, by the end of the 3rd and 10th weeks respectively. Also, please come in right away to discuss any extraordinary circumstances or emergencies that could affect your grade.

Community Contribution
The success of this class depends upon the quality of the learning community we create. Our class culture will be built from the social contributions each of us choose to offer; my hope is that a spirit of enthusiastic inquiry will prevail. Things like arriving prepared & on time, staying for the entire class period, and entering the discussion help to build such a positive learning community. Things like arriving late, leaving early, sleeping, cross-talk, and cell phones make the community environment more negative. 10% of your grade will reflect your personal contribution to our community. As far as unexcused absences go, more than 3 will lower your grade by at least a full letter. Attendance is required during final presentations.

Deadlines
All assignments and should be completed on or before the date & time due.

Evaluation
Final grades are based on a 100-point scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Contribution</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept maps (2)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflective Analysis papers (15)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading the class discussion (1)</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural perspective essays (4)</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Formal presentation of Cultural Autobiography project (1)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Autobiography; your finished book (1)</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A=90+   A/B=85+   B=80+   B/C=75+   C=70+   C/D=65+   D=60+

Syllabus Updates
I will update/revise the syllabus from time to time in order to better serve our learning community.

Academic Integrity
Be sure to paraphrase carefully, cite all references according to an accepted academic standard, and put all word-for-word material in quotation marks. Using an author’s work without giving careful credit, plagiarism, is considered a theft of intellectual property. Don’t jeopardize your career; ethical behavior is mandated by MTU policy. If you have a question, ask!

Discrimination & Harassment
MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with disabilities Act 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 concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (7-3310).
# Assignment Overview

100 Points Possible  
A=90+  A/B=85+  B=80+  B/C=75+  C=70+  C/D=65+  D=60+

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1—Communication Concept Map</td>
<td>9/3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2—Reflective Analysis papers</td>
<td>every Monday, usually</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3—Leading the Class Discussion</td>
<td>Fridays: sign up</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4—&quot;Visual&quot; cultural perspective essay</td>
<td>9/22 &amp; 9/29</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5—&quot;Generations&quot; cultural perspective essay</td>
<td>10/6 &amp; 10/13</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6—&quot;Public Space&quot; cultural perspective essay</td>
<td>10/20 &amp; 10/27</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#7—&quot;Work&quot; cultural perspective essay</td>
<td>11/3 &amp; 11/10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#8—Final Book Concept Map</td>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#9—Cultural Autobiography: Your finished book</td>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#10—Formal presentation: Cultural Autobiography Project</td>
<td>last 2 weeks: sign up</td>
<td>10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Weekly Calendar

### Weeks 1, 2 & 3: Focus on Chapter 7  
**STORYTELLING**

**WEEK 1:**  
- Monday, August 25  
  - Intras to each other and to the course  
- Wednesday, August 27  
  - Begin Discussing George & trimbur's Reading Culture  
  - Begin Discussing G&T Ch 7 "Storytelling" and the idea of rhetorical analysis  
- Friday, August 29  
  - DUE: Reflective Analysis-1: the meaning of your name  
  - DUE: Begin Discussing "The Hook" G&T pp 315-322

**Week 2:**  
- Wednesday, September 3  
  - DUE: Assignment #1: Communication Concept Map  
  - DUE: Reflective Analysis-2: your concept of communication

**WEEK 3:**  
- Monday, September 8  
  - DUE: Reflective Analysis-3: "The Hook" G&T pp 315-322

### Weeks 4 & 5: Focus on Chapter 4  
**IMAGES**

**WEEK 4:**  
- Monday, September 15  
  - DUE: Reflective Analysis-4:  
  - Discuss Ch 4 G&T

**WEEK 5:**  
- Monday, September 22  
  - DUE: Assignment #4: "Visual" cultural perspectives essay due for first review  
  - DUE: Assignment #5: "Visual" cultural perspectives essay due for second review

### Weeks 6 & 7: Focus on Chapter 2  
**GENERATIONS**

**WEEK 6:**  
- Monday, September 29  
  - DUE: Assignment #4: "Visual" cultural perspectives essay due for second review  
  - DUE: Reflective Analysis-6: "Kiswana Brown" and your own reflection on naming from 8/29  
  - DUE: Begin Discussing Ch 2 G&T "Kiswana Browne" G&T pp 45-52

**WEEK 7:**  
- Monday, October 6  
  - DUE: Assignment #5: "Generations" essay due for first review  
  - DUE: Assignment #6: write your own "Howl"

### Weeks 8 & 9: Focus on Chapter 6  
**PUBLIC SPACE**

**WEEK 8:**  
- Monday, October 13
DUE: Reflective Analysis-8:
DUE: Assignment #5: "Generations" essay due for second review
• Begin Discussing Ch 6 G&T

Wednesday, October 15

Friday, October 17
DUE: Assignment #3: Leading the Class Discussion group 5

WEEK 9: Monday, October 20
DUE: Reflective Analysis-9:
DUE: Assignment #6: "Public Space" essay due for first review

Wednesday, October 22

Friday, October 24
DUE: Assignment #4: Leading the Class Discussion group 6

WEEKS 10 & 11: Focus on Chapter 8

WEEK 10: Monday, October 27
DUE: Reflective Analysis-10
DUE: Assignment #6: "Public Space" essay due for second review
• Begin Discussing Ch 8 G&T

Wednesday, October 29

Friday, October 31
DUE: Assignment #3: Leading the Class Discussion group 7

WEEK 11: Monday, November 3
DUE: Reflective Analysis-11:
DUE: Assignment #7: "Work" essay due for first review

Wednesday, November 5

Friday, November 7
DUE: Assignment #3: Leading the Class Discussion group 8

WEEKS 12 & 13: Focus on MAKING YOUR BOOK

WEEK 12: Monday, November 10
DUE: Assignment #7: "Work" essay due for second review
DUE: Reflective Analysis-12: How I think I might pull my book together

Wednesday, November 12
DUE: Assignment #8: Final Book Concept Map

Friday, November 14

WEEK 13: Monday, November 17
DUE: Reflective Analysis-13:

Wednesday, November 19

WEEKS 14 & 15: Focus on PRESENTING YOUR PROJECT

WEEK 14: Monday, December 1
DUE: Assignment #9: Cultural Autobiography
DUE: Reflective Analysis-14:
M-W-F DUE: Assignment #10

DUE: Assignment #10
Friday, December 12
DUE: Reflective Analysis-15: A letter to me about the semester: feedback, suggestions, ideas