Hola Guten Tag Goeie middag Mema mo aha
Bon Jour Ye ngmena Good Afternoon Salom
Bwairire buya Aloha Selamat petang
Mesomme God ettermiddag Non ho Bonas tardas
Galab wanaagsan Apa kabar Sawat-dii
torn bai Dobri den Nuchu

Instructor Contact Information

Kim Menzel-Smith
kjmenzel@mtu.edu
Walker 315, 487-3238; Office Hours Tuesdays 12:00-1:30, Fridays 2-3.
Hours can also be arranged as needed.

I welcome questions. Don’t hesitate to ask me to clarify an assignment, or to
review your progress in the course. Expect me to respond promptly to e-mail
and phone calls, and I will expect you to take the initiative to tell me when
something is unclear. Individual progress will be reviewed in consultation
appointments with Instructor, to be scheduled twice during the course.

Texty

George, Diana and John Trimbur. Reading Culture: Contexts for Critical Reading


*Note that Culture will not be read in entirety.
Course Description

Revisions integrates written, oral, and visual communication to better persuade, inform, and share knowledge with an audience. We are all communicators who make choices about how to express ourselves to others, and many of these choices are impacted by culture. Does a 23-year old woman from South Africa see information from the same viewpoint as a 52-year old man from Canada? We will discuss the ways in which communicator and audience view information within a context of age, culture, ethnicity, race, religion, and life experience.

As the name suggests, Revisions involves a process-oriented approach; consequently, we will use brainstorming, written outlines, rewrites, group review, peer & instructor feedback, and consultation to reach an end product. This is not a lecture class; instead, Revisions is an interactive course utilizing small and large group discussion, weekly in-class reflection papers, analysis of film and advertisements, and a debate presentation. Revisions teaches strategies to increase your effect on an audience, whether through written, spoken, or visual language.

Everyone comes to the classroom with a different level of skill and confidence in their ability to effectively reach an audience. Everyone will have opportunity to advance in their skills, as we will also gain knowledge on how to analyze the choices made, and to whether language lies in the control of the presenter.

Participation & Attendance

Attendance and active participation are essential to your success in Revisions.
3 excused absences allowed; each subsequent absence results in a 5 pt. deduction from total points. Active involvement is evidenced by the following: arrive on time, having read the assigned material; be prepared to discuss homework and readings with a large/small group; complete assignments in a timely manner. Choose absences wisely, as many assignments cannot be turned in late, including: in-class writing exercises, rewrites, and presentations. If you are late to class, see me to sign in. Expect that lateness may cause deductions in points earned. Because this course is interactive, not lecture style; you must be present to bring value to the work of the group as a whole.
Grading

Participation (15%)
Weekly in-class writing (15%)
Narrative essay (15%)
Capstone Research Project
   Written argumentative essay (25%)
   Presentation (15%)
Visual analysis (15%)

Schedule

Assignment sheets will be passed out in advance for all assignments, indicating due dates for each portion of the assignment, timeline for all drafts and outlines, and grading criteria. Instructor reserves the right to revise syllabus and/or schedule to better serve students and to achieve the overall goals of this course.

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 handling in papers written by students for other classes or purchasing academic papers. Plagiarism and cheating not only are dishonest but also 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).
Timeline for Major Projects – UN 2001

*Readings to be assigned in class

**In-class reflective writing occurs each Friday (or Wednesdays on weeks with no Friday class)

No class Monday, Sept. 1 - Labor Day
No class Friday, Sept. 5 – K-Day
No class Friday, October 3 – Homecoming recess
No class week of Nov. 24th - Thanksgiving break

1st draft of Narrative essay due Friday, Sept. 12
  - 2nd draft due Wednesday, Sept. 17
  - Final draft due Monday, Sept. 22

1st draft of Visual analysis due Wednesday, October 1 (group project)
  - 2nd draft due Wednesday, October 8
  - Final draft due Wednesday, October 13

Capstone Research Project
  - Identify topic and give to me in writing by Friday, October 17
  - Written outline for project due Wednesday, October 22
  - 1st draft of research paper due Wednesday, October 29
  - 2nd draft of project due Wednesday, November 5
  - Oral presentations/debates Nov. 10 – 21 (classroom review of projects)
  - Complete a written rhetorical analysis of your project week of Dec. 1; your evaluation of the opposing argument due Dec. 5

Portfolios due Friday, December 12