Revisions: Oral, written and visual communication

UN 2001 - R08 * MWF 11:05 - 11:55 * Spring 2004

Instructor Contact Information
Kimberly J. Menzel-Smith
kjmenzel@mtu.edu
Walker 315, 487-3238; Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00-4:00; Wednesdays 1:00-3:00.
Let me know if these times don't work for you, we can always find a workable
time to meet.

I welcome questions. Don't ever hesitate to stop by, call, or e-mail in order to
discuss any concerns, to clarify an assignment or feedback, or to review your
progress in the course. Expect me to respond promptly to e-mail and phone
calls, as 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.

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


Course Description
Revisions integrates written, oral, and visual communication strategies to lend
strength and power to acts of expression. We will use multiple genres to gain an
awareness of effective communication in visual, written, and oral acts of
communication. Because we are all communicators who make choices everyday
about how to express ourselves to best persuade, inform, defend, or refute our
positions. Our choices are impacted by cultural influences and our own lived
experience. For example, what are the ways in which a 19-year old
Black woman from South Africa would view and interpret information
differently from a 57-year old white man from Arkansas?

Revisions focuses on use of rhetorical strategies to improve the effectiveness of
our communication; specifically we will consider context, the identified
audience, and purpose. Additionally, as the name suggests, Revisions takes a
process-oriented approach to work. Brainstorming, outlines, drafts, rewrites,
group review, peer & instructor feedback, and conferencing will all be used to help work toward completion of each project.

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 will be evaluated weekly in writing - (15%)
Weekly in-class writing - (10%)
Personal Narrative - (15%)
Visual Essay (20%)
Capstone Research Project - (10%)  
  Written argumentative essay (10%)
  Presentation (15%)

**Schedule**

Assignments will be discussed verbally and detailed assignment sheets will be given as follow-up to group discussion. These will detail the expectations for the assignment, timeline for all drafts, and the evaluation criteria. Instructor reserves the right to revise syllabus and/or schedule to better serve the needs of the class.
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).