REVISIONS: ORAL, WRITTEN, AND VISUAL COMMUNICATION
(tentative syllabus)

Section R18 – TR – 11:05-12:20
Location: room 144 Walker
Instructor: Merle Kindred
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This class will help strengthen your abilities in all areas of communication by a combination of individual and small group assignments based on class discussions and background reading in texts and online sources, and from research. You will be increasing in awareness of the impact and effectiveness of the oral, written, and visual communication of yourself and others to determine what kinds of communication media and strategies are appropriate for different situations. The goal is to empower you as a multi-dimensional communicator.

COMMUNICATION
You are reading the skeletal syllabus for this course with the first two weeks outlined in detail to give you a sense of the rhythm and pace of the course. We will communicate about the details of each week’s work later in class, electronically, and by conferencing either individually or in small groups. Our class listserv is: revisions18-l@mtu.edu

COURSE MATERIALS
RC - Reading Culture, 6th edition, Diana George and John Trimbur (used $41.25)

ATTENDANCE
Regular attendance is critical to success in learning. Since we are meeting twice a week for longer sessions, you are allowed two excused absences (e.g. illness, field trips, personal reasons, etc.) without penalty during the semester with the understanding that you acquire a buddy in class whom you can contact for a summary of the class, details about assignments, and to get copies of any handouts. Please let me know the reason for your absence either via e-mail or in class. Except under extreme circumstances (e.g. accident, extreme illness, death in the family, etc), more than two absences will drop your grade one notch for each absence (e.g. A to A/B, A/B to B, etc.)
GRADING
You are expected to exert maximum effort in all areas of exchange:
10% class and online participation and shorter written assignments
45% three major written assignments (15% each)
20% oral presentations
10% final oral presentation
15% final research report

[NOTE: Revisions courses are being assessed university-wide this semester and you will be asked to prepare a final portfolio – anonymously – for submission. This is a requirement for passing the course, but will be ungraded. A detailed checklist and instructions will follow later. Meanwhile, KEEP ALL DOCUMENTS, PAPER OR ONLINE, PERTAINING TO YOUR WORK IN THIS COURSE.]

MTU’S POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Cheating and plagiarizing will not be tolerated. 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," and the 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. Resist the temptation. All work is to be original with full documentation for quotations and paraphrases. If you ever have any questions about this issue, or about how to cite someone else’s work properly, please talk with me or consult a coach in the Writing Center. Know that you will be confronted directly if any assignment that is a radical departure from your usual style is submitted.

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 contact Dr. Gloria Melton in the Dean’s Office (487-2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may talk with your instructor, your advisor, a department chair, or the Affirmative Action Officer (487-3310).

CLASS CALENDAR

WEEK 1 - August 31st & September 2nd

On Tuesday:
Introduction to course – syllabus & texts, demographics & geographical origins of class, how we learn as a species, basic rhetorical principles, "Introduction, Reading Culture," RC pp. 1-6, and synchronicity. Sign up for “A Walk in the Park” sessions.

For Thursday:
Reading: RC – Ch. 1 Reading the News, pp. 1-20 – news, and TV news
Writing: You've been at Tech for a year now. Please write 2 pages (500 words, double-spacing, 1" margins, 12 pt.) about how you received news before coming here and how your news acquisition habits have changed (or haven't) in the past year. Include the pros and cons of your choice of information sources and how you rate yourself as an informed citizen.

On Thursday:
Discussion about how we're going to handle readings and assignments for the rest of Reading Culture and ideas on pp. 1-20. Collection of writing assignment.

For next Tuesday:
Reading: RC - Ch. 1 (cont.), pp. 20-32 - newspapers, news magazines, and news on the Web
Writing: Each of you conduct interviews of four to five family members or friends based on the model on pp. 9-10. (I'll supply multiple hard copies plus an e-mail attachment of the interview questions for each of you.) Write a half-page (125-word) summary of observations about your interview results and staple this onto the interview worksheets. On Tuesday in class, we'll form groups of three or four to compare results, then share the highlights of each group's findings with the entire class to get a greater sense of how people in our friendship and family circles are acquiring news information.

WEEK 2 - September 7th & 9th
(Note: "Generations" pair to meet with me at a mutually-convenient time early this week to discuss next week's readings and assignments. This pair is exempt from news interview assignment in order to give maximum attention to chapter 2.)

On Tuesday:
Discussion of interview results and readings for today. NDDB - "The Joshua Tree Principle." Collection of interview assignment.

For Thursday:
Reading: RC - Ch. 1 (cont.), pp. 32-42 - 9/11, values, Fox, and conventions.

On Thursday:
Discussion of RC readings for today.

For next Tuesday:
Chapter 2 "Generations" readings and assignments for next week.

WEEK 3 - September 14th & 16th
(Note: "Schooling" pair to meet with me early this week.)
Readings in chapters 2:
RC - Generations
NDDB - Proximity
First draft of major writing assignment #1 due Tuesday and will be returned Thursday.
WEEK 4- September 21st & 23rd
(Note: "Images" pair to meet with me early this week.)
Readings in chapters 3:
RC – Schooling
NDDB – Alignment
Note: Major assignment #1 due Thursday the 23rd.

WEEK 5- September 28th & 30th
(Note: "Style" pair to meet with me early this week.)
Readings in chapters 4:
RC – Images
NDDB – Repetition

WEEK 6- October 5th & 7th
(Note: "Public Space" pair to meet with me early this week.)
Readings in chapters 5:
RC – Style
NDDB – Contrast

WEEK 7- October 12th & 14th
(Note: "Storytelling" pair to meet with me early this week.)
Readings in chapters 6:
RC – Public Space
NDDB – Review
First draft of major writing assignment #2 due Tuesday and will be returned Thursday.
[NOTE: Mid-semester conferences will occur this week.]

WEEK 8- October 19th & 21st
The narratives Americans tell themselves about
their lives and the lives of others
(Note: "Work" pair to meet with early this week.)
Readings in chapters 7:
RC – Storytelling
NDDB – Type (& Life)
Note: Major assignment #2 due Thursday the 21st

WEEK 9- October 26th & 28th
Readings in chapters 8:
RC – Work
NDDB – Categories of type

WEEK 10- November 2nd & 4th
Pause for analysis and critique of the final oral, written, and visual communication strategies of Election 2004.
WEEK 11- November 9th & 11th
(Note: “American History” pair to meet with me early this week.)
Further pause for reflection on and evaluation of the oral, written, and visual communication following the results of Election 2004.
First draft of major writing assignment #3 due Tuesday and will be returned Thursday.

WEEK 12- November 16th & 18th
(Note: “Living in a Postcolonial World” pair to meet with me early this week.)
Readings in chapters 9:
RC – American History
NODS – Type contrasts
Note: Major assignment #3 due Thursday the 18th

***Thanksgiving Recess: Friday, November 19th, 10 p.m. – Sunday, November 28th.***

WEEK 13- November 30th & December 2nd issues raised by a globalized society
Readings in chapters 10:
RC – Living in a Postcolonial World
NODS – So, do you get it?

WEEK 14- December 7th & 9th
Final oral presentations and submission of written report for group research project.
Portfolios for university-wide Revisions review (with all student and instructor ID and commentary removed) submitted on the 9th. No final exam.