belonging in the World / Being a Stranger in Our Own Countries
UN 2001 Revisions (R22; Spring 2007): Written, Visual, and Oral Communication
Instructor: Yang Liu  Class Time & Room: 12:35-13:50 T & R; Walker 144  Office: Walker 146
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Revisions Description, general
Revisions, UN 2001, is one of four core classes that the MTU General Education Curriculum requires all undergraduates to take. This course is designed to help you develop and strengthen your comprehensive communication abilities. We will help you have a better understanding of why, how, when, where, and to whom you produce your communications so that you can make your communications more appealing, effective, and successful. Through your work in Revisions class, we want to achieve the following goals:

- Learn a rhetorical process for analyzing and producing texts using written, visual, and oral communication.
- Understand how the audience and purpose in any communication situation shape effective communication.
- Analyze and produce a range of (mixed) written, visual, and oral texts in a range of genres.
- Learn how processes of reflection and invention are useful in developing communication.
- Acquire extensive practice in revising written, visual, and oral communication.
- Acquire strategies for testing and assessing their communications.
- Work both alone and collaboratively in learning and communicating.
- Learn how to conduct, communicate, and document research for a substantive piece of argumentative communication.
- On the issues they research, seek out multiple points of view in order to learn how their own positions fit within wider contexts.
- Recognize that, in the context of global cultural diversity, our communication choices are effective only when we understand that and how different audiences interpret texts.
- Discuss and analyze the ethical implications of a communicator’s choices in a text.

Description of this section of Revisions
In 1800 it could take 5 weeks to cross the ocean from Asia to North America; by 1900, because of steam engines, the journey was reduced to 5 days. Now it is just a long flight.
In 1800, the only way for someone in China (for example) to stay in touch with someone in the United States was by letters that traveled on those 5 week journeys back and forth. Now we pick up the phone.
This comparative ease of travel and communication — combined with changing economic and political conditions — means that if we are to be effective citizens and workers, we all must be comfortable in communicating well with people who have grown up in conditions different from our own. This means not only that we must be able to reach out to others but that we must understand our own assumptions and preconceptions about what counts as effective communication: if we do not understand how our assumptions and preconceptions shape us, then we cannot understand when they get in the way of our communicating with people shaped by other assumptions and preconceptions.

In this particular section of Revisions, we will examine our assumptions and preconceptions about our own communication practices. It will be as though we are strangers from another planet figuring out what allows humans to get along in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in Spring 2007.

Textbook

Grading and other class notes
Your final grade in this class will depend on seven major projects as well as on a series of smaller assignments and on your class participation. Here is how your grade will be determined:

Major assignments: 60% of total grade
- Rhetorical analysis 10%
- Group research paper on some aspect of American culture 15%
- Instruction set of an American group/organization 10%
- Poster on Happiness 5%
- Oral presentation on happiness 5%
- Final Portfolio 15%

Smaller Assignments: 20%
These are assignments such as your design plan, progress report, revision plan, reflection papers, etc.

Class participation: 20%
This grade will be determined based on your attendance and participation in class discussions.
A ≥ 92%  92% > AB ≥ 87%  87% > B ≥ 79%  79% > BC ≥ 74%
Here are some other notes on class policies:

- You must complete all assignments to receive a passing grade in this course.
- I will gladly write to you at your MTU email account, but not at others. Using your MTU account is a sign of your professionalism.
- I do not check my emails every day. If you have audio/video needs for a presentation in our class or need to discuss an absence, you need to get in touch with me at least 2 days ahead.
- Save all the assignment sheets, written assignments and drafts you develop for all assignments on your computer: you must include these in the portfolio to be turned in at the end of the semester.
- For the assignments that require drafts, I will only accept final work that has developed out of those drafts.

Attendance

Because of the highly collaborative nature of this course, in which you will need to get and use lots of feedback from others through peer review, discussion, and group research, your presence in class matters. You are permitted only TWO absences during the whole semester; beyond TWO absences, your grade will be lowered. Sleeping, talking or laughing, talking on your cell phone, or text messaging in class count as being absent as well, even though you might be physically present.

If you know you will be absent, let me know beforehand and bring me the work due on that date ahead of time; if you do not bring me the assignment beforehand, it will be considered late. You are always responsible for any work you miss in the class you miss. I'm much more forgiving of absences if you are responsible about the situation.

Late Assignments

I DO NOT accept late assignments unless you've come to me at least a week beforehand to talk about the possibility of turning in an assignment late. Any late assignments will affect your final grade.

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." This policy applies to copying sections or entire papers from printed or electronic sources as well as handing in papers written for other classes or by other students for other classes; it also applies to purchasing academic papers. Plagiarism and cheating are not only dishonest but cheat you out of learning, the reason you are at Tech. If you ever have any questions about what counts as cheating or plagiarism, please talk with me 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 a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education and services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students (7-2212). If you have other concerns about discrimination, please contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (7-3310).

CLASS SCHEDULE

Using Written Communication to research differences in how we communicate (Group work)

**Week 1**

T 1/16 Introduction to class and develop ideas for research paper

*Assignment: Read pages 34-51 of cda, on design plan and pages 143-174, on research paper*

R 1/18 Decide groups, topic, & research Qs and work on design plan

**Week 2**

T 1/23 Work on sources

*R 1/25

Conferences

**Week 3**

T 1/30

Work in Groups

*R 2/01

Due: Progress Report

**Week 4**

T 2/06 Receive the feedback and work on revision plan

R 2/08 Winter Carnival
Week 5  T 2/13  Work in groups  
Due: Revision Plan  
R 2/15  Due: Final draft of group research paper  
Assignment: Bring an object (that combines words and pictures) that you think typifies some aspect of American culture, read pages 320-326 of cda, on rhetorical analysis & refecion on group research paper  
Week 6  T 2/20  Talk about the objects that you bring to class and discuss reading  
Due: Reflection on group research paper  
Assignment: First draft of rhetorical analysis  
R 2/22  Peer review  
Due: First draft of rhetorical analysis  

Using Written and Visual Communication together to consider differences in how we communicate: Developing instructions for culture (Group/ Individual work)  
Week 7  T 2/27  Movie  
Due: Final rhetorical analysis  
Assignment: Read chapter 12 of cda (pages 381-396)  
R 3/01  Analyze the sample instruction set and discuss readings  
Assignment: Instruction set of a group or organization to which you belong  
Week 8  T 3/06  TBA  
R 3/08  Fieldwork for pictures of instruction set  
Assignment: Fieldwork report  

Enjoy Your Spring Break!  
Week 9  T 3/20  Fieldwork reflection & Peer review  
Due: Fieldwork report & First draft of instruction set  
R 3/22  Work for Instruction set  
Assignments: Bring one of the posters that you like or dislike  
Week 10  T 3/27  Discuss why you like or dislike the poster you brought.  
Due: Final instruction set  
R 3/29  Develop ideas for posters  
Assignment: Poster on Happiness & Read chapter 8, pages 223–260, in cda  

Using Visual and Oral Communication to consider differences in how we communicate: What is happiness?  
Week 11  T 4/03  Discuss reading and sign up for oral presentations  
R 4/05  TBA  
Week 12  T 4/10  Due: Final version of poster  
Assignment: Reflection on the oral presentation and poster  
R 4/12  Oral presentations on posters — happiness (class-graded)  
Week 13  T 4/17  Oral presentations on posters — happiness (class-graded)  
R 4/19  Receive feedback on oral presentations  
Due: Reflection on the oral presentation and poster  
Week 14  T 4/24  Due: Final portfolios  
R 4/26  TBA  

No Final for this class — so enjoy your break!  

NOTE: I reserve the right to revise this syllabus and schedule to better serve student needs.