HU 5931
Practicum in Pedagogy: Written, Visual, and Oral Communication
Spring 2008
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Graduate Assistants: Moe Folk and Steve Bailey (Ask Moe and Steve for their office hours)

Course Approach, Content, and Assignments: The focus this second semester continues to be on your teaching in the Revisions class. We will read and discuss some more chapters in Guide to Composition Pedagogies, and we have made preliminary plans to address a few other topics. But once again, we would like your input before we settle on a working schedule. On a separate sheet we have listed some topics and activities we believe would be of both use and interest to all of you. Please review this sheet, identify what you would like us to try to schedule, and also feel free to list other topics you think would make a good fit for us this second semester. Overall, our primary aims are the same as they were in the fall: 1) to examine theory relevant to issues of literacy education, 2) to explore ways of applying this theory to classroom practices, and 3) to share and explore issues and challenges arising from your classroom experiences.

I would like each of you to visit the class of another Revisions instructor during the first half of the semester. You may stay within our HU 5931 group or choose one of the other instructors (I am including a list of them at the end of this syllabus). Ask for permission first. It is perfectly okay for GTIs to say no to your request, but I'm hoping that we have enough trust and sense of community here that you will find someone who is willing to share. Once you have permission and have agreed on a date for your class visit, copy that plan to me asap. The purpose of this visit is not to snoop, obviously, but to have opportunities to encounter alternative teaching approaches/assignments and to promote conversation among our GTIs about the teaching of UN 2001. Immediately after the visit, write a one-page narrative and reflective response and submit it to me. What did you learn about your own teaching from watching someone else teach? What is different about this class and the approach of the instructor? What might you be interested in trying in your own classes? You may also provide a copy of this reflective response to the GTI, or you may simply discuss the class with him/her over coffee or at some other mutually convenient time. I consider this to
be an important part of your ongoing teacher training, so please make plans early to visit a class and get your narrative to me in a timely fashion.

We will continue to devote the first twenty or so minutes of most classes to sharing teaching experiences from the previous week. In addition to the discussion of readings and sharing of assignments, you are to begin thinking about and working on your short position paper (see last semester's syllabus). This paper is due Monday of Exam week: we will have a peer critique/editing session on a draft of the position paper toward the end of the semester.

Finally, I again want to conference with each GTI at least once during the term, ideally sometime during weeks 8-10. Scheduling these conferences is your responsibility, but I'll try to give you a few reminders (NB: please don't all of you wait until week 10 to set up a conference). You are, of course, always welcome to come by during office hours or schedule additional time for us to talk about your teaching. I know Moe and Steve are also very willing to talk with you.

I will not visit your class this term unless you invite me to. In that event, I would be happy to come.

**Attendance:** Policy the same as last semester. We continue to regard your presence as a form of professional obligation; so should you.

**NOTE:** MTU's Affirmative Action Officer has asked that all faculty include the following statement on each course syllabus:

MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students, (2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head, or the Affirmative Action Office (3310).

The other GTIs teaching Revisions this term are: Joanna Schreiber (2 sections), Karen Springsteen (2 sections), Ethan Jordan (1 section), Diane Keranen (1 section), Dawn Janke (2 sections), Shawn Apostel (1 section), and Roxane Gay (1 section).