UN2001 (R14) Revisions: Oral, Written & Visual Communication

Fall 2008
Tuesday/Thursday 9:35 – 10:50

Instructor: Lisa Watrous
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Office Hours: Monday 2:00-3:00/Wednesday 1:00-2:00
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*Books are to be called for, and supplied, on the assumption that the process of reading is not a half sleep, but, in the highest sense, an exercise, a gymnast's struggle; that the reader is to do something for himself, must be on alert, must himself or herself construct indeed the poem, the argument, the history—the text furnishes the hints, the clue, the start or framework.*

Walt Whitman, Democratic Vistas, 1871

Course Description

One of four core classes required of all students by the University's General Education Curriculum, Revisions is designed to help you develop and strengthen your oral, written and visual communication skills. Throughout the semester we will examine and create a variety of texts to gain better understanding of productive communication for differing contexts and audiences. The course requires extensive student participation in the form of individual writing assignments, group projects/presentations, and in-class discussion. Together we will consider the rhetorical force behind the stories we tell, histories we’ve created and the images that seem to shape our understanding in the world.

We will...

- Learn a rhetorical process for analyzing and producing texts using written, visual and oral communication
- Revise, that is, we will learn writing as a process which means extensive practice in revising written, visual and oral communication
- Learn how to conduct, communicate and document research for a substantive piece of argumentative communication
- Recognize how the processes of reflection and invention are useful in developing communications
- Conduct, communicate and document research toward a substantive piece of argumentative communication

Required Texts


Absences

You are permitted two unexcused absences each semester. Realizing that participation is essential to everyone’s learning and crucial to your success in the course, absences will negatively impact your grade. I reserve the right to count tardiness as absence. If you do miss more than two classes (unexcused) 10 points per day will be deducted from your total score.
Due Dates, Deadlines & Late Work

I consider your work in this course to be your professional contribution as a student at Michigan Tech. The required assignments are process-driven and include a variety of stages and revisions. If your work is submitted late the opportunity for revision is minimal and will directly affect your overall score for the class.

Assignments & Assessment Portfolio & Grading

Throughout the semester you will be asked to complete a variety of projects culminating in a final group project/presentation. Each assignment is intended to develop your oral, written and visual communication skills for differing audiences and within different contexts.

A portfolio of the work you did in this class is required at the end of the semester. Keep copies of all the work you do, and all drafts of that work. Because of the nature of this portfolio you MUST save ALL of your drafts, assignments, peer reviews, group work, notes, papers, etc. Missing information can result in more work for you and will negatively impact your grade. More specific information concerning the portfolio will be addressed in a separate handout.

You must finish all assignments and turn in a complete portfolio to fulfill the requirements of this class.

- Pop-Cultural Sighting (Contemporary Issue) 45 points
- Reflective Essays/Revisions 60 points
- Project 1 (Individual)- Image Diary 50 points
- Project 2 (Group)- Revisiting The Story 170 points
- Portfolio 50 points
- Participation 175 points

Total Points: 550

Grading Scale

- 550-523 A
- 522-498 AB
- 494-467 B
- 466-440 BC
- 439-412 C
- 411-385 CD
- 384-357 D
- 356-0 F

Office Hours & Email Policies

Office Hours will be held in the lower level of the Wadsworth Building, Campus Café. If my listed office hours do not fit with your schedule and you would like to meet please email me at lnwatrous@mtu.edu or call me at (602) 460-0823. Please do not call after 10:00 pm as I will most likely be quite cranky if you do!

If you send me an email please allow 24 hours for a response. Include in the subject of your email our course number, your last name and a short subject (i.e. UN2001_Watrous_Assignment Questions).

Participation
Given that the goal of the class is to enhance your communication skills, your participation is necessary. Earning participation points is fairly simple: Come to class, contribute constructively to class discussions, engage productively in peer reviews, do your best for your group, etc. If you are not in class, you are not participating, so poor attendance will affect your participation grade as well as your overall performance in the class. (See ‘Absences’ section of this syllabus for further detail concerning attendance policy and absence consequences.)

Classroom Conduct

Welcome to Revisions! Throughout the semester we will encounter and openly discuss a variety of subjects that may be controversial. Please be kind, respectful, considerate, and charitable to your classmates as engage in dialogue together.

4-Week Look Ahead

I reserve the right to revise the syllabus and/or course schedule to better serve student needs. Updates to the schedule will be made and posted regularly on my website. Here’s the plan for the first four weeks.

Week 1  (9/2) Tuesday: Introductions, Syllabus, Course Requirements  
(9/4) Thursday: Booth Parts 1 & 3

Week 2  (9/9) Tuesday: Reading Culture (RC) 1-12, 346-357—one page response  
(9/11) Thursday: RC 364-369, 372-390

Week 3  (9/16) Tuesday: Stage 1, Contemporary Issue Due  
(9/18) Thursday: The Non-Designers Design Book 13-108

Week 4  (9/23) Tuesday: Due Stage 2, Contemporary Issue Due  
(9/25) Thursday: RC 66-73, 84-87, 106-113

MTU 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 the Dean of Students Office at 487-2212. For concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, departmental head or the Affirmative Action Office at 487-3310.

MTU 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 handing in papers written by students for other classes or purchasing academic papers. Plagiarism and cheating are dishonest and 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.