Welcome to UN 2001: The best class you’ll ever take AND a class where your teacher will eventually learn your name.

**THE MEANING OF LIFE OR WHAT REVISIONS IS ABOUT**

Revisions: Written, Visual, and Oral Communication is one of four core General Education classes required of all students at Michigan Tech. The goal of this course is to help you learn about communication from a rhetorical perspective. That’s what we’re supposed to tell you. In reality, ReVisions is a course that covers many different things and each student takes something different from the course. The ultimate goal is to provide you with the tools to communicate effectively, orally, visually and with the written word. At the end of the semester, you will be better equipped to communicate persuasively, taking into account audience, purpose, and the context of a given communicative situation.

**WHAT WE WILL BE DOING**

Throughout the semester, you will choose a social issue with which to frame many of the course assignments. This issue can be anything you choose (I’ve seen everything from global warming to the merits of pirates versus ninjas). Keep in mind, however, that you will be doing several assignments involving your issue, so you probably want to choose something that will hold your interest and provide complex research questions. You will also gain valuable experience in working in groups, peer evaluation, using a writing process, and developing improved writing skills and enhanced oral and visual communication skills.

**HOW TO GET AN “A” IN THIS CLASS**

Grades are a necessary evil. If you’re interested in a good grade, you should:

- Read assigned material prior to class and come prepared to engage in discussion;
- Complete individual and group assignments and submit them on time; and
- Participate in class discussions, engaging in respectful communication.
- Provide constructive feedback to your classmates.

Your teacher is Roxane Gay. Should you need additional assistance outside of the normal class times, Roxane will be available Wednesdays, 1:00 – 3:00, Thursdays, 3:45 – 5:00 and other times by appointment. All course materials are available online at http://www.hu.mtu.edu/~rgay/Spring09/index.html. There is also a class e-mail list to which you are all subscribed. The address is 2001rgay-hmtu.edu and will be used to keep you up to date on assignments and other information relevant to the course.