Instructor: Mare Mueller
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Office: Walker 312
Office Hours: Thursday 3:30-5:30 & by appointment

Required Course Text:
* Supplemental readings available on my website.

Course Description: "UN2001: Written, Visual, and Oral Communication" is one of four core General Education classes required for all students aspiring for a degree from Michigan Technological University. The goal of this course is to get you to think critically by learning rhetorical strategies, which will make you a more effective communicator, a skill every person hoping to have a successful professional career needs in an ever-changing world.

At your instructor, my goal during the semester of this course is to provide you with the tools and the opportunity to practice effective oral, visual, and written communication. At the end of the semester, I know you will not only be better communicators but you will feel empowered by your refined communication skills. This is a service learning course—you will deal with local social issues picked by experts in our community. Because you are a citizen and a member of society, I expect you to work/learn selflessly. This semester we will serve our community.

Description: A composition course on dreams: My dream as your instructor is to benefit our community as needed; my dream is to show you how empowering your rhetoric can be to others. I hope that during the semester we will help the teachers and students of the LSSI; I hope that we will visit with people at the Bluffs and be able to record and share their stories; I also hope that over the semester our class will feel communal—that it will be a safe, comfortable learning environment; where everyone can do their best work; where everyone will feel safe to grow.

Community-based component: Visiting and communicating virtually with the "core" teacher you are assigned. Visits to the Bluffs. Investigating our community—how we fit, what the culture is, how we can improve it.
Classroom-based component: weekly readings, weekly reading responses, class discussions, in-class written reflections, group work and class activities. Participation and respect is essential to our success.

Assessment: If you or your parents don’t want to pay for this class twice: complete all assignments, turn in a portfolio; show up and fully participate in all class discussions, activities; and contribute to your groups’ success.

The mathematical value of your work – A Percentage Breakdown:

- Portfolio: 25% / grade
- Participation: 30% / grade
- Reading Responses: 15% / grade
- Journal Responses: 15% / grade
- Formal Assignments: 20% / grade

Evaluation/Grading:

I do not believe in grades. I must submit a grade for you at the end of the semester to keep my job.

Your grade is based on your participation, attendance, and portfolio. If you should be concerned about your grade at any time please see me.

Projects/Assignments:

- Reflective in class responses.
- Reading responses published on Facebook. Minimum 500 words.
- A group, mini investigation of your host school’s project.
- A major group multimodal project for LSSI.
- An informative (research based) and persuasive written, oral, and visual composition of a topic: 1) the story of a local citizen 2) an investigation of a local/regional issue 3) Your ideas on love 4) How your dreams will come into fruition.

Deadlines and Assignments: Complete all assignments to pass. Turn in a physical copy of assigned work on the established deadline. If you decide to skip even one assignment, your entire grade will suffer due to the process oriented/cumulative nature of the required portfolio this course... see below...

The Final Portfolio: This course culminates in a final portfolio. The portfolio is mandatory. It is to be anonymous for departmental and institutional course assessment. I will use your portfolio to determine your final grade. We will work on the portfolios during class. I’ll help you in anyway I can at the appropriate time in the semester. More details on website.
Attendance: Your presence is required. We need one another. Students are permitted to miss three unexcused classes per semester. Subsequent unexcused absences will lower your grade by a half letter grade each time. This policy is strongly enforced because your classmates and I need your input. We need your unique perspective in our discussions.

Participation and Civic Discourse: Civic Discourse is language shared by a group of people who have intellectual, institutional, and social ties. In this course, much time is spent discussing issues, being curious, critical, and speculative. I require a safe and open class environment. This means that you as a student must consider the consequences of your language, and to make room for others’ ideas.

Instructional Support Services: Michigan Technological University’s Writing Center: Writing coaches at the Writing Center can help you plan, draft, and revise assignments for this course. To meet with a writing coach, go to the Writing Center located in Walker room 107 during their daily walk-in hours (11 am – 3 pm). To schedule an appointment, dial (906) 487-2007 or view their website.

MTU’s Policy on Academic Integrity: On Plagiarism: Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses. They are defined as “knowingly copying another’s work or ideas and calling them one’s own or not giving proper credit or citation.” 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. During the course, we will discuss what qualifies as plagiarism, since this subject can be confusing.

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 call Dr. Gloria Melton, Dean of Students (7-2212). For other concern about discrimination, you may contact ME (your instructor), your advisor, the department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (7-3310).

On Affirmative Action: http://www.admin.mtu.edu/aa/
On Safe Place Program: http://www.safeplace.mtu.edu
On Disability Services: http://www.admin.mtu.edu/web/studenthandbook/service.cfm?service=disability

Multimodal: multiliteracies.com

*Note: As a human and the instructor of this course, I have the right to revise the syllabus, the course schedule, and/or projects/assignments to better serve YOU.*