UN1001 Hope: A Global Perspective

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Course Description
What enables one to have hope? What role does hope play in the life of an individual and in a society? This course addresses these overarching questions in an effort to explore the ideas and institutions that provide and support opportunities for hope, as well as examining those circumstances that lead to non-hope or despair. Through study of literature, memoir, philosophy, film, and documentary, we will confront the personal and social challenges of attaining and maintaining hope in a constantly-changing global society. Through research, discussion and writing, our study of hope will examine the ways hope and despair are engendered in our own lives, our community, and in the lives of others. Ultimately, viewing hope through both a personal and global perspective may help us better understand the ways in which we, as individuals and as a collective, confront change and address the challenges of our future.

Required Texts
The Freedom Writers Diary by the Freedom Writers with Erin Gruwell
The Future of Peace: On the Front Lines with the World’s Great Peacemakers by Scott A. Hunt
Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Men, Nature and Climate Change by Elizabeth Kolbert
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

Resources
• Additional readings and general resource information can be found at my website: www.hu.mtu.edu/~clweberb
• For questions regarding the course and assignments, please email me at any time or stop by during my office hours, Monday 10-11am, Tuesday 6-7pm, Wednesday 11-noon.
• For general assistance with research, writing, editing, and presentations, contact the MTU Multiliteracies Center at 7-2007.

Course Policies
• Come to class prepared
• Read all material required for the course by the due date
• Think critically about and be ready to analyze the course readings
• Complete all assignments by the due date
• Participate in class discussion and activities

General Policy
Cell phones, ipods, and computers should be turned off and stowed away during class time unless otherwise directed by your instructor.
Academic Integrity Policy
Presenting others' work as your own or failing to credit resources results in plagiarism, which can lead to academic probation. If you ever have any questions regarding this issue, please talk to me or consult a coach in the Writing Center (7-2007).

Grading Policy
All work must be completed to receive a final grade in the course. Your final grade will be calculated based on the following percentages:

**Attendance and Participation** (10% of final grade)
You are responsible for informing me in advance if you know you will be absent, and must make arrangements for handing in all assignments due for that day. In unforeseen circumstances, such as illness, email me as soon as possible regarding the situation. Due to the high emphasis placed on class participation, more than one absence will affect your grade. Please note that missing class for an evening exam is considered an *unexcused* absence. Contact me immediately if you believe you have an evening exam conflict.

**Reflection Papers** (15% of final grade)
To practice both thinking critically and transferring those thoughts into written language, throughout the semester you will be assigned short reflection papers. Prompts will be posted to my website or given out in class and will comprise both specific questions and general entries related to the readings, films, and discussion. *Papers must be completed prior to class and should be two pages typed, 12pt. font.*

**Quizzes** (10% of final grade)
To stimulate class discussion and help you synthesize the reading material, there will be short answer quizzes on the readings throughout the semester.

**Assignments** (15% of final grade)
Three short assignments, intended to practice your research skills, will be due this semester.

**Research Project and Presentation** (20% of final grade)
As part of a small group (2-3 members), you will research a non-profit organization that works to further hope in the local and/or regional community, compile your findings into a report, and present a synopsis (visual and oral presentation) to the class. Presentations will take place weeks 5-10; group and organization sign up takes place week 2. Project proposals are due one week prior to your group presentation. Project reports are due the day of the presentation.

**Individual Research Paper and Presentation** (30% of final grade)
In this assignment, you will conduct research on an issue relevant to the course material, compile your research into a critical argument, and present a synopsis of your argument to the class through a visual and oral presentation.
**ADA Compliance**

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 Student Affairs Office (7-2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (7-3310).

**Important Note:** I reserve the right to change this syllabus at any time to meet the needs of the class.

## Course Schedule (tentative)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>introduction to course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>social justice; screen film</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>tolerance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>screen film</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Brave New World; Reflection Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>compassion; screen film</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>freedom; screen film</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>environment; screen film</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>environment; writing workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>conferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>presentations; assessments</td>
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</tbody>
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- *The Freedom Writers Diary* p. xiii–107; pdf readings; Reflection Paper
- *The Freedom Writers Diary* p. 108–191; pdf readings; **Assignment 1**
- *The Freedom Writers Diary* p. 192–277; pdf readings
- *Brave New World; Reflection Paper*
- *The Future of Peace: Forward, Introduction, Chapter 2; Reflection Paper*
- *The Future of Peace: Chapter 3; pdf readings; **Assignment 3**
- *The Future of Peace: Chapter 7; pdf readings; Research Paper Proposal*
- *Field Notes from a Catastrophe* p. 7–89; pdf readings; Reflection Paper
- *Field Notes from a Catastrophe* p. 91–188; pdfs readings; **Draft: 1 Research Paper**
- **Draft 2 Research Paper**
- **Presentations**
- **Presentations, Final Paper, Final Reflection Paper**