Course Description: UN2001: Composition is a general education, university-wide class designed to inform students about effective communication practices in a multimodal world.

Themes and Topics: I will be filtering and directing much of our discussion through the lens of my own research: the relationship between digital games and music, technology studies, existentialism, anti-postmodern pedagogy, scientific humanism, astronomy, low-fidelity and quasi-philosophy. We will be working with ideas old and new, from 8-bit gaming to proper research paper citations, from the origins of rhetoric to problems of voice and identity in the modern world. This class will be equally practical and theoretical. Be prepared to discuss and to disagree. You will bring your own interests, ideas, and thoughts to the class. This is not an “English” class. Throw out those old notions. This is about becoming a more effective communicator and a richer critical thinker.

Required Text: You might have been asked to purchase *The Craft of Research*, Booth, Colomb, Williams, 3rd ed., 2008. This is an optional, though worthwhile, purchase. It will not be required for the class.

Other Materials: Additional readings, videos, images, and more will be available on the class website: lawrence.classtell.com. The password is “lawrencecomp”. Because I have a no-laptops-open-unless-I-say-so policy, you will either want to bring a printed copy of readings to class or take thorough notes about your reactions or questions. Please bring paper and writing utensils to class for in-class writing activities.

Grading: These are the important due dates for the course that you will want to note. Also here is the weight of each assignment as a percentage of the overall grade. Due dates are noted on the class schedule as well. I will not accept late work. If there is a timeframe issue, you must discuss it with me at least one week before the due date.

- Attendance and in-class work: 10% Daily
- Research paper: 20% Feb. 3rd
- Audio/visual “viral” project: 20% Feb 24th
- Self-exploratory paper: 20% April 6th
- Final portfolio w/reflection essay: 30% April 20th

Attendance: Missing class will harm your grade. This is because there will be a substantial amount of in-class quick-writes, prompts and class discussions. I strive to make every class meaningful and worthwhile. Notify me ahead of time if you cannot make it to class, and I will give you an alternate assignment; I allow two of these excused absences in the course, because I understand that unexpected life issues happen. Unexcused absences, or absences beyond the two excused will result in ½ of a letter deduction in your final class grade, and subsequent absences will compile further deductions.

Devices: Keep laptops turned off during class unless I indicate that we will be using them. Cell phones and smart phones should be turned off or on silent. I advocate the productive use of technology, so if we ever need figures, facts, or info from the Internet, I may allow the use of mobile devices.

Plagiarism: I consider plagiarism a serious ethical offense. I will not accept work that is not your own, or work that is improperly or insufficiently cited. It is a waste of my time and a waste of your mind. Do your own work.

University Policies: Familiarize yourself with these policies. You ought to actually read them thoroughly.

*Academic Integrity:* http://www.mtu.edu/dean/conduct/policy/academic-integrity/
*Disability Information:* http://www.mtu.edu/dean/disability/policies/
*Undergraduate Policies:* http://www.admin.mtu.edu/catalog/university/academic/#policies

This syllabus may be altered by the instructor at any time if warranted.