The Spoken Word

Course Description

The Spoken Word. Study of spoken and/or performed literatures, staged and paged, including, but not limited to oral tradition, poetry, spoken word, hip-hop, rap, and drama.

Course Information

- HU2540.R01, SPRING 2013
- Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:35-1:50pm
- Fisher Hall, Room 127
- Professor: M. Bartley Seigel (Matt)
- Professor Contact: mbseigel@mtu.edu or (906) 487-2016
- Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11am-12:30pm or by appointment (recommended)

Course Policies

- Students must fulfill their responsibilities: Completing all assignments on deadline, reading all assigned readings, taking notes, writing daily, revising, editing, studying, participating in course discussions, posing pertinent questions, engaging the materials, and being an engaging participants.
- Students who fail to attend or fully participate in the course can expect a course grade absolutely no higher than a C. Failure to make a deadline will result in an automatic F on that assignment. Late coursework will not be accepted and cannot be “made up.” Turning work in early is always acceptable, though students are encouraged to stick close to their deadlines. Student’s should plan ahead and accordingly.
- A note on attendance:

"Did I Miss Anything" by Tom Wayman

Nothing. When we realized you weren’t here we sat with our hands folded on our desks in silence, for the full two hours Everything. I gave an exam worth 40 percent of the grade for this term and assigned some reading due today
on which I'm about to hand out a quiz 
worth 50 percent.

Nothing. None of the content of this course 
has value or meaning

Take as many days off as you like: 
any activities we undertake as a class
I assure you will not matter either to you or me 
and are without purpose

Everything. A few minutes after we began last time 
a shaft of light suddenly descended and an angel 
or other heavenly being appeared 
and revealed to us what each woman or man must do 
to attain divine wisdom in this life and the hereafter

This is the last time the class will meet 
before we disperse to bring the good news to all people on earth

Nothing. When you are not present 
how could something significant occur?

Everything. Contained in this classroom 
is a microcosm of human experience 
assembled for you to query and examine and ponder

This is not the only place such an opportunity has been gathered 
but it was one place

And you weren't here

- Something less than an engaged commitment to integrity and ethics undermines the efforts of the entire community. Breaking this social compact will result in an automatic F for this course.

- Grading Metric: A (4 points, 96-100%); A/B (3.5 points, 90-95%); B (3 points, 84-89%); B/C (2.5 points, 78-83%); C (2 points, 72-77%); C/D (1.5 points, 66-71%); D (1 point, 60-65%); F (0 points, 0-59%).

- Student work products (exams, essays, projects, etc.) may be used for purposes of university, program, or course assessment. All work used for assessment purposes will not include any individual student identification.

- Michigan Tech has standard policies on academic misconduct and complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For more information about reasonable accommodation for or equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at (906) 487-2212 or go here.

Coursework

- Participation (15%): Attending class, completing all assignments on deadline, reading all assigned readings on deadline, taking notes, writing daily, revising, editing, studying, participating in workshops, participating in course discussions, posing pertinent questions, engaging the course materials, and being an engaging course participant.

- Quizzes (15%): There will be weekly quizzes covering assigned readings and lectures.

- Spoken Word Portfolio: Students will write and workshop 50 pages worth of spoken word performance over the
course of the term in a form of the students choosing.

- Mid-term Spoken Word Portfolio (20%): 25 pages of spoken word performance written and workshopped with evidence of substantive revision.
- Final Spoken Word Portfolio (20%): 50 pages of spoken word performance written and workshopped with evidence of substantive revision.
- Critical Reflection Essay (15%): 5 pages, to accompany the final spoken word portfolio. Minimum 3 substantive sources.
- Spoken Word Performance (15%): Toward the end of the term, students will perform, from memory, a 5-10 minute selection from their spoken word portfolio.

Course Calendar

- Tuesday, January 15: Course Intro.
- Tuesday, February 5: TBD.
- Thursday, February 7: No Class, Winter Carnival.
- Tuesday, February 12: TBD.
- Thursday, February 14: TBD.
- Tuesday, February 19: Mid-term Spoken Word Portfolio Workshops.
- Thursday, February 21: Mid-term Spoken Word Portfolios Due.
- Tuesday, February 26: TBD.
- Thursday, February 28: TBD.
- Tuesday, March 5: TBD. (Boston)
- Thursday, March 7: TBD. (Boston)
- Tuesday, March 12: No Class, Spring Break.
- Thursday, March 14: No Class, Spring Break.
- Tuesday, March 19: TBD.
- Thursday, March 21: TBD.
- Tuesday, March 26: TBD.
- Thursday, March 28: TBD.
- Tuesday, April 2: TBD.
- Thursday, April 4: TBD. (Iowa City)
- Tuesday, April 9: Spoken Word Performances. (NYC)
- Thursday, April 11: Spoken Word Performances. (NYC)
- Tuesday, April 16: Spoken Word Performances.
- Thursday, April 18: Spoken Word Performances. (MSP)
- Tuesday, April 23: Final Spoken Word Portfolio Workshops.