Syllabus: UN1002 World Cultures (kthomas) - Section OE - Spring 2012 (12362)
Section Information: Section OE - Spring 2012 (12362)

Course Name: UN1002 World Cultures (kthomas)
Section Instructor: Kette Thomas
E-mail: kthomas@mtu.edu
Office: Walker 309
Office hours: Mon. 2-3; Wed. 2-3; by appointment

Course Time and Location: Fisher Hall, Room 135
M/W/F 3:05 - 4:55

Graduate Teaching Assistants: Rebecca Karnosky
E-mail: rfrost@mtu.edu
Office: Walker 148
Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:30 - 2:30, by Appointment

Course Direction:

World Cultures constitutes the second of four core-studies classes at Michigan Technological University. In this course, lectures examine cultural difference and change around the globe from the perspectives of the social sciences, humanities, and arts. Subject matter ranges from prehistory to the present. Films, live performances, and guest speakers accompany classroom lectures. In this class we will learn how to think critically about other regions of the world. By this I mean, we will engage the kinds of discourses, rituals, traditions, and events that inform a collective and are meaningful to their social organization. At the heart of our inquiry we will find that while there are many differences between ourselves and others, there are also significant similarities, both positive and negative. To understand the world we live in is to engage the things we do, what we believe, and why we believe them.

This course fulfills a general education requirement at Michigan Technological University. This section is similar to all UN 1002/3 courses taught at MTU, but the sections are not identical. All World Cultures sections include common critical readings and analyses of texts. All classes also require students to attend certain common activities, films, and performances.

Students can take advantage of study groups headquartered in MTU's writing center (Walker 107, 487-2007).

Active participation in discussions about course material and current events will help you develop skills for critical consumption of media and information. Study groups provide an excellent opportunity to practice communication skills and are one forum where you can opt to integrate academic and intellectual perspectives on the modern world.
Required Texts:

Marston, Sallie A., Paul L. Knox, and Diana M. Liverman
Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey.

All other texts are under “Course documents” in Blackboard.

Grading Criteria:

There will be four (4) on-line quizzes given during the course, each worth five (5) points. These quizzes occur on-line at the Blackboard class web site. The on-line quizzes will usually cover that week's readings and you will typically be able to take the quiz between noon Saturday and start of Monday's class. There will be no make-up quizzes. Each quiz is comprised of multiple choice questions from the textbook, additional readings and lectures. These are short and meant to keep you focused on the reading material. Your quiz scores total 20 out of 100 points.

There will be two (2) exams. A mid-term exam will test the cumulative information garnered from the beginning of the semester to the class just prior to the exam. This exam will include class discussions, film, and reading assignments. This exam will be a series of short-answer questions. The second will cover the materials following the midterm to the just prior to that exam. Each of these is worth twenty (20) points, for a total of 40 out of 100.

You will submit weekly response papers on the readings and lectures via Blackboard during the course. Your responses will be published for the rest of the class to view. These responses should be a minimum of 300 words and must include materials from the lectures, textbook readings, narratives, cultural events, and guest lectures. Each response is worth four (4) points, with a total of ten (10) responses submitted throughout the semester. You can choose which ten weeks you want to submit response papers, but I will not accept multiples during a single week, nor will make-ups be permitted without verifiable proof of unavoidable emergencies. This is 30 out of 100 points for the course.

You will attend several cultural events during the semester, including films and live performances. You may submit responses on these events in lieu of the course textbook, readings and lectures.

The following are the events scheduled for Spring, 2011:

Performances:
Celtic Nights - A Journey of Hope - Tues., Feb. 21, 7:30 pm OR Wed., Feb. 22, 7:30 pm
Mystical Arts of Tibet: Sacred Music; Sacred Dance – Fri., March 16 OR Sat., March 17;
7:30pm
“Crossing Borders” film screening with director Arnd Wächter – TBA


Log on to this website to choose your tickets:
http://www.aux.mtu.edu/tickets/
You can use the website to sign up for tickets starting on Friday, January 13th. You can pick up your tickets after February 1st at the box office in the Rozsa Center. Do not wait for the night of the show to pick up the tickets.

You must attend three live cultural events and performances outside of class. Your lab fee paid (in part) for these external events, so you pick up free tickets for these events. You will receive a detailed handout regarding the live events. While pre-paid, seats will be on a first come, first serve basis. If you do not go early to pick up your tickets, you may not get the night or event you would prefer to attend.

Ten (10) points of your grade will come from proof that you attended all of the required events.

Extra Credit Assignments

Additional Film Showing
Before the Rain
Monsoon Wedding
Shower
Syrian Bride
Mama Africa

I will arrange to show at least two of the films above during the semester. They are not on the syllabus, but they are common to the UN1002 course. Ordinarily, viewings will happen on Friday evenings, unless a more appropriate time is available.

You can attend at least two additional showings and write 1000 word response papers on each, for a total of two point five (2.5) points, each, up to five (5) points.

AND/OR

For an additional five (5) points towards your final grade, you can do the following:

The ESL program at Michigan Technological University has offered to arrange for you to engage in conversation with students in the ESL program. The “conversation partner” program is a very effective way to engage with others from different cultures and backgrounds. Every hour you spend in conversation, you will receive one point, but the minimum is five hours, five (5) points. This is a mutually advantageous program, in that it affords some who are not familiar with other regions the opportunity to learn what can’t be taught in a classroom (sometimes communication
is just action-oriented), and those from other regions can learn more about American culture, while improving on the language.

Final Grading Tally
Online Quizzes: 20
Two Online Exams: 40
Ten Essays: 30
Cultural Events 10

100 Points

Extra Credit
Two additional films and 1000 word essays 5
Conversation Partner with ESL 5

10 Possible Additional Points

You might have an emergency and miss a major exam (You must provide proof of an avoidable conflict). Arrangements for taking the make-up exam should be made within three working days after the scheduled examination due date. If this procedure is not followed, the student will not be allowed to take a make-up exam. Unexpected emergencies will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

If you experience an unavoidable conflict, such as an MTU athletic event or medical emergency, you can substitute another cultural event at the Rozsa. I will design substitute projects for appropriate performances. You should contact Rebecca or me in writing within the first two weeks of the term regarding schedule conflicts due to University events (athletic teams, etc.) and in case of emergency as soon as reasonably possible. Excuses or reschedules for scheduled events will not be accepted after April 1st.

Unless a verified and unavoidable emergency occurs, projects turned in after the due date will be subject to point deduction as follows: -10 percent for every business day. For example, one student had a paper due Monday, but didn't turn it in until Friday. He opted to have his grade reduced by 50 percent (-10% per day for five days). There will be no make-up papers permitted after the cultural events have ended. Plan accordingly.

There will be no opportunities to get "extra-credit" for any type of normally graded assignments. I encourage students to spend time and do well on regularly scheduled projects and not to miss any exams, quizzes, or other work.

Always print copies of your papers-- one for your own files. Keep your copies until you have received your final grade from the university. If you examine your grade book in Blackboard and
believe a discrepancy exists, bring your graded paper and rubric to show me as evidence of the error.

At any given point in the course, a student can compute their own grade by summing the current point-total scored on completed assignments and dividing that total by the possible number of points at that date. The final grade is a letter determined on the following scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93%+</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>88-92%</td>
<td>AB</td>
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<tr>
<td>83-87%</td>
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<td>78-82%</td>
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<td>73-77%</td>
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<td>68-72%</td>
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<td>60-67%</td>
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<td>59%</td>
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Equal Educational Opportunity:

MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, you should contact the Associate Dean of Students (487-2212). For concerns about discrimination, you may contact your professor, her/his department head, or the Affirmative Action office directly at 487-3310.

Student's Responsibilities:

*It is the responsibility of students with documented disabilities to contact the instructor during the first week of the semester to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in grading, classroom experiences, and outside assignments. The instructor and TAs will meet with the student to formulate a written plan for appropriate accommodations. I respect each individual's right to privacy. If you choose not to identify your need for accommodation, I will*
not be able to take action on your behalf. If you disclose your needs while the class is ongoing, reasonable accommodations will begin from the documented disclosure forward.

In addition, student athletes, those observing religious restrictions, and students involved in other university sanctioned activities who might experience scheduling conflicts must contact the instructor during the first two weeks of class to discuss conflict resolution. All requests for excused absences must be put in writing and given to the instructor prior to the activity.

In addition, any student that has authorized their grade to be released to an organization or individual (i.e. a fraternity academic supervisor, a scholarship committee, etc.) must also notify me with a written note within the first week of the semester. Note that United States federal law prohibits me or the teaching assistants from sharing your grade with anyone unless you provide written consent. If you need a mid-term grade report, notify the teaching assistants or me in writing the class period before you need the update. If you bring us a grade report form at the end of class without warning, we will not sign it. I will be happy to provide you with interim grade estimates, but such an evaluation takes time to prepare. You will extend the professional courtesy of written advance notification.

**Tips for Studying**

In this class you will learn many details about the peoples of the world. In your readings, focus on the main ideas and how particular details relate to the generalizations that we are trying to make. It is essential that you keep up on the reading. You will be exposed to, and be expected to master, a lot of new concepts and definitions each week. If you get behind in your reading or in learning the concepts and definitions, it will often be difficult to follow the lecture. You will also fail to get the most benefit from the cultural activities.

As you may have already discovered in last-semester's lecture-based courses, you really can't cram much material the night before the exam. Instead, I recommend that you adopt some of the highly successful study habits your peers use. A few from successful students are:

1. "I joined a voluntary World Cultures study team at MTU's Writing Center."
2. ""I read my notebook, cover to cover, three times a week on non-lecture days [such as Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday]. It doesn't take very long, I drink a cup of coffee or two in the morning while reading, and I try to remember each day and the examples and points from class. When I sit down to study before the test, I can still remember the first week of class even though it was 7 weeks ago."
3. ""I go home from class each night and type my notes, this makes me remember what we did in class each time. I don't always have time to think and absorb information while I am writing my notes during lecture."
4. ""I went to every lecture because the material always showed up on the exam. I also arrived on time so I didn't miss the introduction for each day.""
As you read and review, make an outline of the textbook material, as well as brief summaries of the case studies in the textbook and the assigned articles. In addition to having a good grasp of the assigned readings in the Marston text, you should be able to discuss the Study Questions at the end of each chapter or section in the books. As you go through the semester, you may want to build a vocabulary list from lectures and readings to supplement the Glossary found on pg. 617-625 in Marston.

As a student at Michigan Technological University, you have an email account on MTU’s server. This class will have a list-serve for student discussion of course material and important administrative announcements. A list-serve is like a mail board where one person can send a note, and the server will bounce the message to all of the other members of the class. This list exists for two purposes. First, I use it to communicate with you about course material and administrative concerns. You should read your email at least three times a week. The list also permits students to discuss course materials as a group. From time to time, I will also post general announcements about cultural events on MTU’s campus which are unrelated to class assignments. Inappropriate or unproductive use of the list-serve, or postings inconsistent with the spirit of the class, will result in penalty at the discretion of the instructor. Your use of this discussion group is also governed by MTU’s computing ethics code.

You are expected to take class notes on the lectures, films, activities, performances, and events. Class lecture notes are not for publication or reprinting (including on the internet) without the written consent of the instructor. You are liable for copyright infringement when you take such actions, and besides that it is just not polite.

I do not permit copies of my exams in scoop files.

Support Services at Michigan Technological University

There are many support resources on campus to ensure that you achieve the academic goals you set yourself. MTU’s Writing Center serves as your main resource during this class. Graduate and undergraduate students staff the Writing Center, and two professional staff members assist when appropriate. They keep up to date with reading and writing assignments given in classes in order to help students work through those projects. Besides the dedicated World Cultures study teams mentioned earlier, the WC staff can help you improve many competitive skills, including: understanding writing assignments; planning, organizing, and revising papers; proofreading; overcoming writer's block; increasing reading comprehension and efficiency; effective study strategies; resumes; library research; learning English as a foreign language; coping with learning disabilities; and many other elements of successful college experience.
Dr. Scarlett’s Writing Center Study Group coaches are: Karen Koethe, Elaine Venema, Madie Xiong, Bernadette Yeoman, and Evelyn Helminen.

In addition to the Writing Center, there are many specialized support organizations on campus. The Counseling Services Office provides free and confidential service to MTU students and their spouses. Counseling Services assists you with those academic, social, and personal/emotional issues that may interfere with your effective use of your talents in the college setting.

Counseling Services
Hamar House
Telephone: 487-2538
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
World Wide Web:
http://www.counseling.mtu.edu/

The Center for International Education provides service-oriented leadership in support of Michigan Tech’s goals and priorities in the areas of international programming, study abroad, and international student, scholar and faculty services. The Center for International Education (CIE) offers English as a Second Language (ESL) programs throughout the year. Fall and spring ESL courses include intermediate and advanced level courses as well as academic support courses for both undergraduate and graduate students. The Center strives to be
a contributing and valued participant in Michigan Tech's ongoing efforts to meet the changing needs of a global, technological, diverse, and environmentally sensitive society.

Michigan Tech's Center for International Education  
131 Administration Building  
1400 Townsend Drive  
Houghton, MI 49931-1295  
906/487-2160  
http://www.mtu.edu/cie/is/index.html  
mail: cie@mtu.edu

Finally, MTU staffs a Career Center filled with resources to assist you to win the job that you want when you are ready to graduate. Although it will be three years before many of your peers start to think about graduation and job searches, you'd be wise to start paying attention to the job market now and consider how you'll use classes such as World Cultures to your competitive advantage to get the exciting placement you want.

MTU Career Center  
1400 Townsend Dr.  
Houghton, MI 49931  
Phone: (906) 487-2313  
Fax: (906) 487-3317  
http://www.ucc.mtu.edu/  
Mail to:  
career@mtu.edu

The Dean of Students maintains on-line information about both academic integrity and the Student's Code of Conduct. While you discussed these issues during orientation, you should stay informed of these policies. Check the Dean of Students web pages, particularly the section on Advising Services:

http://www.admin.mtu.edu/dos/advising/  
http://www.admin.mtu.edu/dos/advising/rules.htm

In addition, the Dean of Students has many additional learning resources posted at:

http://www.admin.mtu.edu/dos/advising/learning.htm
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Introduction to the Course
January 09, 2012
• Visit from Multiliteracies group
• Syllabus and explanation of course expectations

Intro
January 11, 2012
• What is Critical Thinking?
• World Regions in Global Context (WRGC) Chapter 1
  Commodifying Nature/commodity; Pastoralists; Colonization; Colonialism; Mercantilism;
  Capitalism; Leadership cycles; Materialists
  Hegemony; Imperialism; Communism; The Cold War; Neocolonialism; International division of
  labor
  Culture; Religion; Diaspora; Cultural Dissonance; Kinship; Sexuality; Ethnicity; sovereign state;
  Nationalism; Regionalism; Political globalization; social movements; World Regions

Europe
January 13, 2012
• Film: The Name of the Rose (film disrupted)

Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday--No Class
January 16, 2012

Europe
January 18, 2012
(finish film: The Name of the Rose)

Europe
January 20, 2012
• Discuss The Name of the Rose
• Excerpts from Hesiod’s Theogony/ The Christian Bible
• What Is the Enlightenment?
• Pages 56-57; 69-77 (Europe)
  Greek history; Judaism; Christianity

Quiz One Weekend

Europe
January 23, 2012
• Film: The Lives of Others
Europe
January 25, 2012
- Discuss The Lives of Others
- Communism/Excerpts from Marx’s Capital/Communist Manifesto/The Cold War
- Pages 94-98; 104-109
Civil society

Europe
January 27, 2012
- Film: E.T. Extra-Terrestrial

Europe
January 30, 2012
- Excerpts from the Book of Job
  (Torah/Talmud, anti-Semitism, The Holocaust)
- Discuss E.T.

The Middle East/North Africa
February 1, 2012
- Pages 122-124; 138-143
  Hajj; Islamism; jihad; kinship; Muslim; oasis; transhumance; world religion; Zionism

The Middle East/ North Africa
February 3, 2012
- Film: Ali Zaoua

The Middle East/ North Africa
February 6, 2012
- Rumi/Koran/Quran
- Discuss Ali Zaoua

Sub-Saharan Africa
February 8, 2012
- Poem from “
- Pages 184-193
  Quiz Two Weekend

Winter Carnival
February 10, 2012
- Winter Carnival No Class

Sub-Saharan Africa
February 13, 2012
- Film: Yaaba or La Vie Est Belle
Sub-Saharan Africa
February 15, 2012
- Discuss Yaaba or La Vie Est Belle
- Read: “A Gathering of Bald Men”

Midterm Examination
February 17, 2012
- Examination Online

The United States of America/Canada
February 20, 2012
- Declaration of Independence
- Excerpts from “Leaves of Grass” by Walt Whitman

The United States
February 22, 2012
- Pages 207 – 230
- Americanization; assimilation; creative destruction; Europeanization; fast food; multiculturalism; organic farming; slow food

The United States
February 24, 2012
- Film: The Godfather

The United States
February 27, 2012
- Discuss The Godfather
- Overview of Native America

The United States
February 29, 2012
- Read: Yellow Woman and A beauty of the Spirit by Leslie Silko

The United States
March 2, 2012
- Film: Black Robe

Spring Break

The United States
March 12, 2012
• Discuss Black Robe
• Musical Influence/Religion/Art

Latin American/Caribbean
March 14, 2012
• Pages 242-251; 256-271
• Read: Excerpts from Passage of Darkness
• Maya Deren “White Darkness”

Latin America/Caribbean
March 16, 2012
• Film: I Walked With A Zombie

Quiz Three Weekend

Latin America/Caribbean
March 19, 2012
• Discuss I Walked With A Zombie
• Viewing: Buena Vista Social Club

Latin America/Caribbean
March 21, 2012
• Short Essay, Sor Juana Ines De La Cruz (Mexico)
• Short Stories by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
  Magical Realism; Surrealism

Latin America/Caribbean
March 23, 2012
• Film: City of God

Latin America/Caribbean
March 26, 2012
• Discuss City of God
• Brazil and music

East Asia
March 28, 2012
• Pages 283-286; 294-297
  Confucianism; Feng Shui; Shinto
• Excerpts from The Analects of Confucius
• Documentary on Confucius

East Asia
March 30, 2012
• Film: The Last Emperor

Quiz Weekend Four
East Asia/South Asia  
April 2, 2012  
  • Discuss: The Last Emperor  
  • Read: Excerpts from What the Buddha Taught

South Asia  
April 4, 2012  
  • Documentary on Buddha

South Asia  
April 6, 2012  
  • Film: Old Boy

South Asia  
April 9, 2012  
  • Discuss Old Boy  
  • Pages 326-332  
    Hinduism; Siddhartha; Caste; Hinduvta

South Asia  
April 11, 2012  
  • Excerpts from the Bhagavad Gita

Second Examination  
April 13, 2012  
  • Second Exam Online

South/Southeast Asia  
April 16, 2012  
  • Film: Ghandi

BEVI Student Response: All students in World Cultures classes this semester are asked to participate in an evaluation of the course that will help the faculty improve the course in the future. Students in this section will be receive one point of extra credit for participating. To participate, click here.

Power Point on Bevi Survey for Extra Credit

South/Southeast Asia  
April 18, 2012  
  • Discuss Ghandi  
  • Pages 359-364

April 20, 2012  
  • Final Papers Due