



## ENGL 1143: Academic Research and Writing

Section: X51 Online version, Fall 2023

Location: course website via MSU D2L

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**Instructor:** Professor Allyn Bernkopf

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**Office:** Online

**Office Hours:** Via email, Zoom, or D2L by appointment

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### Course Description/ Objectives:

Welcome to English 1143! This course will provide training in rhetoric, including skills involved in the writing process through composition and reading with the addition of particular skills needed for thoughtful research, from selection and analysis to integration and documentation of both print and electronic sources. Students will be required to prepare a research paper of moderate length demonstrating these skills. A grade of C or better is required in this course.

### Course Goals:

- Apply key rhetorical concepts through analyzing and composing a variety of texts
  - Engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, collaboration, and revision
  - Use reading and composing for inquiry, learning, thinking, and communicating in various rhetorical contexts
  - Use strategies – such as interpretation, synthesis, response, critique, and design to compose texts that integrate the writer’s ideas with those from appropriate sources
  - Use sources ethically and in contextually appropriate ways and follow a designated style guide
  - Demonstrate proficient use of linguistic structures, including grammar and mechanics, through practice in composing and revising
  - Additional information about course objectives can be found on the department webpage, <https://msutexas.edu/academics/libarts/english/index.php>.
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### Required Texts and Materials:

1. A computer (w/internet) (You **must** have access to a working computer with a video option at all times in order to succeed in this class.)
2. *The Writer’s Loop: A Guide to College Writing for Midwestern State University* (ISBN: 9781319447137) \*\*see “Note”\*\*
3. Access to *Achieve* via D2L

### Recommended Texts and Materials:

1. *MLA Handbook, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition* or [OWL Purdue](#)

### Note:

ENGL 1143 X51 is included in the Courseware Access & Affordability Program at MSU Texas. What does this mean?

1. Your materials will be available the first day of class, for all students in your class. To access your materials, please log into D2L and navigate to your course.
2. The charges for this material have been posted to your student account at the Business Office. If you want to “opt out” of this program and the cost savings, you will receive the “opt out” instructions in your [my.msutexas.edu](mailto:my.msutexas.edu) email on the second day of class.
3. The cost of your materials charged to your acct. is:  
COSM Electronic Courseware \$45.63

Tax \$3.76  
Comparable pricing at bookstore: \$63.75  
Publisher's website: \$58.99

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## Course Policies

### Email

**As this is an online course, all notifications will occur via email, so you must check your email multiple times daily.** I will be using the D2L email list to send notifications, which should go to your university email address. If it does not go to your university email address, you may forward emails from your D2L email to the university email via Account Settings -> Email -> Forwarding Options. All you need to do is type your email address in the appropriate box, make sure "Forward and mark read in the Inbox folder" is checked, and hit "Save and Close" at the bottom (big blue button).

### Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class. Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world that is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

### Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

### Attendance

Because this is an online course, attendance will not be measured using a standard metric. **Online meetings are mandatory**, but unless we have a scheduled online meeting, you will not be required to "attend" a specific location at a specific time. Instead, attendance is measured by completing the exercises and assignments by their deadlines, proving your involvement with course content. On most class days, these exercises will be part of "modules" that will not require any more coursework than you'd perform during an in-person class. There are no excused absences since you can complete work at your own pace prior to its deadline (timed writing assignments are the exception for this rule). **An "absence" is counted by not completing an online exercise by its deadline.** Each absence will count against your attendance/participation grade, but you are allowed up to 4 "absences" without a reduction to your *overall* grade. After 4 "absences," each missed deadline will count as 5% against your *overall* grade. **After 8 absences, you automatically fail the course.**

## **Definitions**

An **exercise/discussion** is an assignment that addresses a single set of tasks, such as would be completed on an average course day; these can include free writes, reading responses, quizzes, or other written tasks.

A **module** is a series of exercises and readings that comprise a themed unit of coursework, building to a major assignment. Each module is focused upon an essay or project that counts toward your grade (see grading scheme).

A **major assignment** is the culminating paper for each module, designed to demonstrate your understanding of the concepts and objectives of that module.

A **timed writing** is a major assignment that you must complete to pass the class, even though it may be given independent of modules.

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## **Grading Scheme:**

- 10% 3 Peer Review Workshops & Instructor Conferences (2)
- 10% Timed Writing #1 Reader Response Essay (350-word min)
- 10% Timed Writing #2 Position Essay (350-word min)
- 15% Formal Essay #1 Visual Analysis Essay (750-word min)
- 15% Formal Essay #2 Argument Analysis Essay (750-word min)
- 10% Annotated Bibliography (750-word min)
- 20% Final Essay Synthesis Essay (1500-word min)
- 10% Final Exam An essay exam that will be released the last week of classes (500-word min)

## **Grading Policy:**

This class will not use the plus/minus grading system for *final grades*. The following numerical equivalents for final grades are used:

A = 100-90%;

B = 89-80%;

C = 79-70%;

D = 69-60%;

F = 59-0

## **Midterm Grades:**

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, a Midterm Progress Report through each student's Navigate account will be provided by the instructor. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcripts; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. Students earning below a C at the midway point should make an appointment with the instructor and consider visiting the Tutoring & Academic Support Programs Center.

## **Submission Format and Policy:**

All formal assignments are to be typed and outside sources documented according to [MLA style](#) (**do not utilize citation machines. Citation machines only work if you know the citation well enough to enter all of the material correctly**). Additionally, all formal papers must be uploaded into the appropriate D2L assignment. By enrolling in this class, the student expressly grants MSU a "limited right" in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The "limited

right” shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student’s work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes.

Note: You may not submit a paper for a grade in this class that already has been (or will be) submitted for a grade in another course, unless you obtain the explicit written permission from me and the other instructor involved in advance.

### **Access to Microsoft 365:**

All students are able to download Microsoft Office 365 free of charge using their MSU Texas student email address. To acquire Office 365, please visit <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/education/products/office?ms.officeurl=getoffice365?ms.officeurl=getoffice365> and create an account.

### **University Computer Labs:**

The University provides four open computer labs throughout the week. These four labs feature access to Microsoft Office Suite for writing and internet access for research. You can find these labs in:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Clark Student Center	24 hours (Mon-Sun)
Dillard 146	Mon-Thurs 6:00 am – 7:00 pm
Moffett Library	Mon-Thurs 8:00 am – 10:00 pm; Fri. 8-5; Sat: 10pm-6 pm; Sun: 2:00 pm-10 pm
Legacy Hall	24 hours (Mon-Sun)

### **Late work**

Late assignments, defined as work not submitted by the designated date and time posted in the D2L Dropbox/Submission folder, will be accepted, but they will lose 10% of the final grade.

Additionally, no late work will be accepted more than 48 hours after the original deadline. If you miss a deadline for a week’s exercise or exercises, it receives an automatic zero (as well as counting as an absence). *Email the professor if you know work will be late.*

### **Missing work**

You must complete all required drafts and final copies of the major assignments in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies even if the assignment is so late it receives a zero; you must still turn it in to pass the class.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Per the MSU Student Handbook:

“The term ‘cheating’ includes but is not limited to: (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; or (3) the acquisition without permissions, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the university, faculty, or staff.

The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement of the original author. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. All formal papers will run through the Turnitin for an originality report. At the very least, plagiarism will result in an F on the

assignment; at worst, the consequence will be an F in the course. Offenders will be reported to the Chair of the Department of English, Humanities, and Philosophy. Please understand that students have the right to appeal an alleged incident of Academic Dishonesty. More information about this policy and appeal procedure can be found on page 55 of the *Student Handbook* <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/assets/files/handbook.pdf>

### **Students with Disabilities**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

### **Add/Drop Information**

Classes begin 28 August.

The drop/add deadline is 31 August.

The deadline to file for graduation is 25 September.

The W drop/withdraw deadline is 30 October at 4:00 PM.

Class work ends 8 December.

For more information, visit these links: <https://msutexas.edu/registrar/calendars.php>,

<https://msutexas.edu/busoffice/wd-schedule.php>, and

<https://msutexas.edu/registrar/assets/files/pdfs/acadcal2324.pdf>.

### **Change of Schedule**

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester (and above).

### **Refund and Repayment Policy**

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

### **Tutoring**

Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP) provides free drop-in tutoring for MSU students. Located on the first floor of Moffett Library, TASP's Learning Center provides tutoring support in a

number of core courses and subject areas. Writing tutors are available. Remember that students don't need an appointment to utilize these services.

### **Safe Zone Statement**

The professor considers this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

### **Writing Proficiency Requirement**

All students seeking a Bachelor's degree from Midwestern State University must satisfy a writing proficiency requirement once they have 1) completed 6 hours of Communication Core and 2) earned 60 hours. Students may meet this requirement by passing the Writing Proficiency Exam, passing two Writing Intensive Courses, or passing English 2113. If you have any questions about the exam, visit the Writing Proficiency Office website at <https://msutexas.edu/academics/wpr/> or call 397-4131.

### **Campus Carry Statement**

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at MSU Texas's [Campus Carry page](#).

### **Smoking/Tobacco Policy**

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

### **Alcohol and Drug Policy**

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

### **Grade Appeal Process**

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

*NOTE: COURSE CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT INSTRUCTOR'S DISCRETION*