

Course Syllabus: Academic Research & Writing ENGL 1143 Sections 107 and 150 Fall 2021

Contact Information

Instructor: Micòl Martinelli Office: BW #205 Office hours: MWF 9-10 am, MW 11-12 pm, by appointment Office phone: (940) 397-6307 E-mail: <u>micol.martinelli@msutexas.edu</u>

Course Description

The primary objective of the course is to 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. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Apply knowledge of rhetoric to make decisions about written communication
- Engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, and revision
- Write thesis-based academic arguments that provide strong support and specific details
- Find, evaluate, and synthesize credible sources in support of a research paper
- Use sources ethically and in contextually appropriate ways and follow a designated style guide
- Demonstrate proficient use of Standard Written English

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Ingraham, Lauren and Jeanne Law Bohannon. *The Writer's Loop: A Guide to College Writing for Midwestern State University*. Bedford/St. Martins. 2020.

Required digital materials for this course are part of the Courseware Access and Affordability Program at MSU Texas. Students are charged for required course materials on their student account with the Business Office. Any students who wish to opt-out of the Program and purchase the required course materials on their own must do so prior to 09/07/21. Opt-out instructions are sent to students' official my.msutexas.edu email address after the first day of class. Please contact the MSU Bookstore if you have any questions about the opt-out process.

Required Materials

- Three (3) Blue Books
- Access to D2L and Achieve
- A word processor (Google Docs or MSWord) that allows you to save your written assignments as Word Documents.
- A webcam for the final exam. Note that Chromebooks are NOT compatible with Respondus/Lockdown browser.

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 IT or your instructor.

Assignments

The major assignments of this course are: a) two (2) in-class, timed essays (TW), b) three (3) formal, revised essays (FE), c) a researched academic argument paper, d) a peer review workshop, and f) a final exam. The course will also include reading materials from the textbook and/or other provided sources, some pre-writing and in-class writing, group work, and discussion. Overall, homework and participation will count for 10% of your grade.

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
TW1	5
TW2	5
FE1	15
FE2	15
FE3	15
Academic Argument	15
Peer Review Workshop	10
Participation & Homework	10
Final Exam	10
Total Points	100

Grading

This class will not use the plus/minus grading system. In this class, the following numerical equivalents for final grades are used: A = 100-90%; B = 89-80%; C = 79-70%; D = 69-60%; F = 59-0%. Please review the significance of each letter grade (taken from the MSU's Undergraduate Catalogue, p. 73). Essays that meet the basic requirements earn a C, not an A or B. If you wish to earn As and Bs, you will have to work harder to produce better than satisfactory, or average, writing.

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points	Significance
А	90 and up	A indicates excellent work
В	80 to 89	B indicates good work
С	70 to 79	C indicates satisfactory work
D	60 to 69	D indicates passing work
F	Less than 60	F indicates failing work

Midterm Grades

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, I will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. I will submit a grade for all students, not just those in danger of failing the course. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give you an idea of where you stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should make an appointment with me and consider taking advantage of the TASP services (see below).

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 or call 397-4131. Writing Proficiency Office

Acceptable Submission Format and Process

All formal assignments are to be typed and formatted – and outside sources documented - according to MLA style guidelines. All formal papers will be uploaded to the D2L Assignment folder and/or the Achieve Assignment folder. 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 of me and the other instructor involved in advance.

Contacting Your Instructor

Email is the best way to contact me. Please understand that I will respond on the next business day if you contact me on weekends or after hours.

Late Assignment Policy

All assignments are due on the dates assigned. No late work will be accepted unless specific arrangements have been made prior to the due date. Students falling two assignments behind are subject to administrative withdrawal from the course by the instructor.

Attendance Policy

It is important that you attend class and arrive on time. Seven (7) absences from class (*excused or not*) will result in an automatic F for the semester grade. Roll is taken right away as soon as class begins. You will be allowed one late arrival during the semester; otherwise, late is considered absent. If you need to miss several classes because of personal reasons, you should alert the Dean of Students office and provide them with the necessary documentation so that they can verify the situation for all of your instructors. Please see the <u>MSU COVID</u> webpage for more information should you begin to experience COVID-19 symptoms. Student athletes that have to miss class to attend sporting events, please make sure you come see me at the beginning of the semester.

Appropriate Conduct & Class Policies

In the classroom students are expected to ask and answer questions and participate in discussion. Appropriate conduct also means maintaining a safe learning environment based on mutual respect and civility. Repeated misconduct may result in receiving a grade penalty or being dismissed from the course.

Safe Zone Statement

This class is 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.

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Penalties for plagiarism in this course can include failure of an assignment, failure of the course, and/or a formal university report of plagiarism. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

Services for 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 <u>Disability Support Services</u>.

TASP

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. Please consult their schedule for more information about times and offerings. *Remember that you don't need an appointment to utilize these services*. Some departments also provide tutoring. Check the "Tutoring at MSU" tab in the portal for more information about all campus tutoring opportunities. For Distance Education students, TASP has partnered with Thinkingstorm, an online tutoring company that provides you with high-quality, 24/7 tutoring support. Located at the top of your D2L course page, select the Distance Education Tutoring course to book an appointment with a tutor. If you are a distance education student (i.e. you live more than 50 miles from MSU and are in all online courses), but you do not see this course pop up under your courses, please contact <u>Ashley Hurst</u>.