



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

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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.

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](#).

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 [Ashley Hurst](#).