

**Instructor:** Rita Beeman  
**Class Time:** TU/TH 10:00 am - 10:50  
**Location:** Prothro-Yeager 205  
**Office:** Bea Wood 221  
**Email:** rita.beeman@msutexas.edu  
**Office hours:** Tu 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
We 11:00AM - 12:00 PM  
Th 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
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# ENGL 1153-201: Introduction to Reading and Writing - Literature - Spring 2024

## Syllabus

### Text:

Lawn, Beverly, and Joanne Diaz. *40 Short Stories: A Portable Anthology*. Sixth ed., Bedford/St. Martin's, Macmillan Learning, 2021.

A style guide such as [LB Brief](#) or [Little Seagull Handbook](#) is not required, but is recommended.

Supplemental reading will be provided by the instructor

### Course Description:

This semester's class will examine various genres of literature, including poetry, short story, drama, and film, as a way to develop an understanding of this type of genre in literature. Texts will be presented from a broad range of writers and artists with the goal of developing a greater understanding of the varied processes that exist within literature in particular and in society at large. I hope that these activities will improve your critical reading and writing skills as you establish the expectations for written discourse at the college level.

### Course Objectives:

- Read various literary texts
- Apply knowledge of literary analysis to interpret literary texts
- Engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, peer review, and revision
- Write various genres of academic essays
- Find, evaluate, and synthesize credible sources in support of a research paper
- Use sources ethically and in contextually appropriate ways following MLA guidelines
- Demonstrate proficient use of Standard Written English

- Additional information about course objectives may be found on the department webpage, <http://libarts.mwsu.edu/english/>.

## **Course Assignments:**

**You will receive detailed assignment sheets that explain the specifics for each of these assignments.**

- 20% 4 One-Page Reading Responses (5% each)
- 20% Short Story Essay.
- 30% Literary Analysis Essay
- 10% Annotated Bibliography
- 10% Class Participation
- 10% Attendance

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## **Final Exam:**

**Time and Location - No final exam for this course**

**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

## **Course Policies:**

- Assignments must be submitted on time unless arrangements have been made prior to due date
- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period
- Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices during class. If you are seen texting during class, you will be asked to leave and will be given an absence for the day
- Failure to follow instructions on an assignment can result in a failing grade
- Food is not allowed in the classroom

**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 formatted – and outside sources documented - according to MLA style. All formal papers will be uploaded into the D2L Dropbox folder and/or Achieve.

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.

**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:

Location	Hours
Clark Student Center	24 hours (Mon-Fri) Sat-Sun – 10 am – 8 pm
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 Assignment Policy:** 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 are unable to come to class on the day an assignment is due, you should still upload it into the D2L Dropbox folder on time to avoid late paper deductions.

### **Formatting Guidelines:**

I will only accept typed work printed on one side of the page, double-spaced, using a 12 pt. Times New Roman typeface with standard margins, in MLA format. Assignments longer than one page must have the page and surname of the author in the upper right hand corner, in compliance with MLA format. All assignments longer than one page should be stapled in the upper left hand corner or submitted in a folder.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end and a listing on the Works Cited page) whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. 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 and/or the Director of Student Conduct.

Use of writings generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI), including ChatGPT, will not be allowed for writing assignments in this course. If the Turnitin system flags a paper for having been written by AI, you will be scheduled for a meeting with the professor to discuss the content of your paper. If your paper is determined not to have been written by you, then the penalty will be identical to the penalties described for plagiarism in the paragraph above.

My sincere hope is that rather than dreading and avoiding performing their own tasks, that students will seize the opportunity to develop their own ideas and creativity, rather than outsourcing their own thinking and communication. Students who take the time and

initiative to convey their own ideas through writing will be able to reflect later on the excellent work they performed during their time at university. I hope each student will make the effort to begin a personal tradition of excellence in all their endeavors.

**Students with Disabilities:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, 940-397-4140

**Contacting Your Instructor:** Email is the best way to contact me: [rita.beeman@msutexas.edu](mailto:rita.beeman@msutexas.edu). Phone, Skype, or Office visits available for additional hours on request. I attempt to check email at least once daily. However, response may be slower on weekends or holidays, so please plan accordingly. I will only be able to check voice mails when I am in the office.

**Attendance Policy:** It is important that you attend class and arrive on time. Missed instruction will make it difficult for you to excel in the class. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. Students who arrive late need to notify the instructor at the end of the class session so their attendance is counted. After the first two absences, the student will lose one semester point per additional absence. Two tardy arrivals will be equal to one absence. Unless you have made prior arrangements with the instructor, leaving the class early will also result in one absence. If you need to miss several classes due to 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. After 6 absences, the instructor may exercise the option of dropping the student from the course with an (F) classification.

**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.

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 tutoring tab to book an appointment with a tutor. Writing tutors will not edit your papers for you, but they will provide support and feedback at every stage of the writing process, from brainstorming to drafting, revising to proofreading.

**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](#).