



Course Syllabus: Intermediate Composition and Grammar
 ENGL 2113 Section X12
 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 develop students' skills in clear and effective composition and standard usage of the English language. In English 2113, students compose, convincingly support, and polish persuasive, thesis-driven essays. The course can be used to satisfy the Writing Proficiency Requirement. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Write thesis-based essays that provide strong support and specific details
- Engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, and revision
- Demonstrate critical and creative thinking about a timely issue or debatable topic
- Demonstrate proficient use of Standard Written English

Prerequisites

Completion of the Communication Core.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

A textbook is not required for this course, as the material needed will be provided by the instructor. However, a style handbook (such as the one listed below) can be helpful.

- *The Little, Brown Handbook (Brief)*

Required Materials

- 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)

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:

- Quizzes. There are ten quizzes. Before taking a quiz, review all the material posted on the quiz topic in the D2L module. Quizzes must be taken during the week they are assigned (i.e., no make-up quizzes). If you take the quiz, you will receive a grade of "1 point," no matter your posted score on the quiz. Your final grammar exam will be based on these quizzes and will count heavily, so don't take the quizzes lightly! Each week's quiz is open from 5 a.m. Monday to 11 p.m. Sunday.
- Writing Assignments. You have five writing assignments: a simple thesis and topic sentence assignment (W1); an assignment in which you submit two body paragraphs (W2); and three complete essays (W3, W4, W5). Assignments will be due on Wednesdays.
- Final Exam. The final exam will consist of two parts: a grammar exam (20%) and a thesis-driven essay (20%). We will use Respondus/Lockdown browser to monitor the exam.

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

| Assignments | Points |
|---------------------|--------|
| Quizzes | 10 |
| Writing Assignments | 50 |
| Final Exam | 40 |
| 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 in the Undergraduate Catalogue.

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.

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.

Required Contact

Students are required to interact with the instructor within the D2L course management system at regular intervals during the semester or term. By completing your weekly quiz on time and submitting assignments on time, you will meet this requirement. Any student who fails to interact with an instructor via D2L, telephone, email, or in person during any one-week period of the term may be subject to administrative withdrawal from the course by the instructor.

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.

Appropriate Conduct & Class Policies

Appropriate online conduct means maintaining a safe learning environment based on mutual respect and civility. All participants in MSU online and hybrid courses are expected to behave professionally by adhering to these standards of conduct in the online environment:

- Respect other people's privacy as well as your own.
- Never transmit or promote content known to be illegal.
- Never use harassing, threatening, embarrassing, or otherwise abusive language or actions.

Online communication that fails to meet these standards of conduct will be removed from the course. Repeated misconduct may result in being blocked from online discussions, 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 academic dishonesty in this course can include failure of an assignment, failure of the course, and/or a formal university report. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found at the Office of Student Conduct.

[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 [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](#).