



Course Syllabus: Academic Research Writing
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
ENGL 1143-209/2R1
Spring 2019
Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-10:50 AM
PY 205

Contact Information

Instructor: Ms. Becky Green

Office: BW 233

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00-11:00 AM; Monday and
Wednesday 1:00-3:00 PM; Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-3:00 PM

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Course Goals

- 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

Textbooks & Required Materials

Wood, Nancy W. *Essentials of Argument*, 3rd ed. Pearson, 2011. ISBN
9780205827022

Bullock, Richard, et al. *The Little Seagull Handbook with Exercises*, 3rd ed.
Norton, 2017. ISBN 9780393602647

A 2-inch three-ring binder, 4 dividers (Handouts/Homework, Papers/Essays,
Sources, Research Project), notebook paper (not jagged-edged spiral paper), 3
blue books (8 leaves, 16 pages), pens/pencils, a highlighter (any color), a non-
electronic dictionary, an optional flash drive, a student email account or
msutexas.edu WebWorld preferred account.

Submission Format and Policy

- All writing assignments must follow MLA format. You may complete blue book writing assignments in pen or pencil. Type all out-of-class writing assignments. You will submit your research project and all of the semester's work in a three-ring binder with four properly labeled dividers: Handouts/Homework, Papers/Essays, Sources, Research Project.
- Do not send assignments as email attachments. Submit all work during class time on the due date unless otherwise noted on the assignment sheet.
- 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 in advance.
- By enrolling in this class, you expressly grant MSU a "limited right" in all intellectual property created by you for the purpose of this course. The "limited right" shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce your work product in order to verify originality and authenticity and for educational purposes.

Writing Center

Begin drafting papers as early as possible and take advantage of the MSU Writing Center, located off the 2nd floor atrium of Prothro-Yeager. Tutoring is available Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM; you can also find a tutor at the satellite location in Moffett Library Honors Lounge, Sunday and Thursday from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. 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.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2018-19](#)

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). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Plagiarism Policy

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 in "Works Cited")—whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. It is a theft of intellectual property and will not be tolerated, whether intentional or not. At the least, plagiarism will result in a 0 on the assignment; at worst, the consequence will be an automatic F for the course. I will follow the reporting procedures required by the dean of students.

Grading

Your grades in this class are based on this scale: A=100-90%; B=89-80%; C=79-70%; D=69-60%; F=59-0%. According to MSU's Undergraduate Catalogue, "letter grades have the following significance: A indicates excellent work, B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D indicates passing work, F indicates failing work" (73). Consequently, an essay that meets the basic requirements earns a C, not an A or B. If you wish to earn As and Bs, you will have to work hard to produce better than satisfactory, or average, writing.

Important: A final grade of C or better in ENGL 1143 is a requirement for graduation from MSU.

Table 1: Assignment Percentages of Total Grade

| Assignments | % of Grade |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Issue Proposal Paper | 10 |
| 2 Blue Book Essays | 10 |
| Exploratory Paper | 10 |
| Research Project | 40 |
| Visual Argument Presentation | 10 |
| Class work and Homework | 10 |
| Blue Book Final Exam | 10 |

Homework

Homework assignments are readings from the two textbooks and materials in D2L. Their due dates are listed in the schedule that follows. Homework is due at the beginning of class.

Blue Book Essays

You will write three blue book essays during class. After completing a reading assignment, you will bring a blue book to class, and I will give you a writing prompt. You will use the class time to compose an essay using information from the reading and the rhetorical skills that have been covered in class. Blue books #1 and #2 are each 5% of your grade.

Papers

The Issue Proposal Paper and Exploratory Paper are written outside class. Their instructions are on D2L, and their due dates are in the course schedule that follows. These papers are building blocks for the Research Paper. Each is 10% of your grade.

Research Project

The Research Project is the focus of the semester's work. The issue and exploratory papers lead up to it, and the oral presentation reflects on it. Instructions for this project are on D2L, and its due date is on the course schedule that follows. This project is 40% of your grade.

Final Exam

The final exam is the 3rd blue book. The final will be given on Wednesday, May 8, 2019 from 1:00-3:00 PM. The final is 10% of your total grade for the course.

Extra Credit

I give no extra credit in this course.

Late and Make Up Work

- I will not collect late homework; however, you may include it in your binder for half credit.
- Missed group work and class work cannot be made up.
- A missed blue book essay must be written during my office hours. For example, if you are absent on Tuesday, February 5th, you will come to my office (BW 233) within one week to complete Blue Book #1. No appointment is necessary. Work not completed in this time frame receives a grade of zero.
- An assigned paper is due in class on its due date. I will reduce its grade by 10% for each weekday that it is late. So bring it to my office as soon as possible.

Important Dates

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" March 25, 2019 at 4:00 PM

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Final Exam: May 8, 2019 from 1:00-3:00 PM

Attendance

If you have more than 4 absences, you fail the class. If you use a cell phone during class, you are absent. When you miss class, please don't feel you have to justify your absence with e-mail messages, phone calls, or a doctor's note; I respect your privacy. If you accumulate more than the allotted absences before the university's withdrawal date, dropping the course is your responsibility. Do not think that you have been invited to miss two weeks of class. Attendance is more than profitable. Coming to class will provide the instruction you need to meet the objectives and requirements of this course.

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 path to course materials and the gradebook. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program.

Computer Requirements

Taking this class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. Assignments 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. 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. 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](#).

Instructor Class Policies

Be on time:

- If you are repeatedly late to class, I will begin marking you absent.
- If extenuating circumstances prevent you from arriving on time, please let me know.

Practice courtesy:

- When I am speaking to the class, do not walk in front of me. If you arrive late to class, wait outside the classroom until I invite you in. When another student is speaking listen.
- Silence and put away all cell phones and other electronic devices.
- If you need to leave the classroom for any reason, you do not need my permission. Simply leave when I or a classmate is not speaking.
- Do not eat in the classroom; however, you may drink from spill-proof containers.
- Disruptive behavior is grounds for being asked to leave the room and being counted absent.

Grade Appeal Process

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

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](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

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.

Course Schedule

Notice: Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.