

# Course Syllabus: Academic Research and Writing

# ENGL 1143-x10

# Fall 2019

## Contact Information

Instructor: Greg Giddings

Office: BW 235

Office hours: TTh: 8:00-10:00 and W: 8:00-9:00

## Office phone: (940) 397-4476

E-mail: greg.giddings@msutexas.edu

## Course Description

* -- Apply knowledge of rhetoric to make decisions about written communication.
* --Compose thesis-based academic arguments that provide strong support and specific details.
* --Engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, and revision.
* --Demonstrate proficient use of Standard Written English.
* --Find, evaluate, and synthesize credible sources in support of a research paper.
* --Document sources responsibly and follow a designated style guide.
* Additional information about course objectives can be found on the department webpage, http://libarts.mwsu.edu/english/.

## Textbook & Instructional Materials

*Writing with Style: Conversations on the Art of Writing by John Trimble—Prentice-Hall, publisher. (Any of the three editions is fine, although the first two will be significantly less expensive.)*

*30/30: Thirty American Stories from the Last Thirty Years edited by Porter Shreve and B. Minh Nguyen—Pearson-Longman, publisher.*

*The Little Seagull Handbook by Bullock, Brody, and Weinberg, W.W. Norton, publisher.*

## Student Handbook

### Refer to: [Student Handbook 2017-18](https://mwsu.edu/Assets/documents/student-life/student-handbook-2017-18.pdf)

## 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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual’s to whom credit is given). Incidences of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment. Furthermore, I will follow university policy and report the violation. A second violation will result in the student being dropped from the class. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

## Grading

In this class, the following numerical equivalents for finalgrades are used: A = 100-90%; B = 89-80%; C = 79-70%; D = 69-60%; F = 59-0%.

|  |
| --- |
| Assignments  Two paragraphs (10%)  Two essays of 600-800 words (20%)  Research paper of a minimum of >1500 words (25%)  Annotated bibliography (5%)  Two “in-class” essays (20%)  Class participation and a required peer review (10%)  Final “in-class” essay (10%)  Essay Drafts  While I do not require that you turn in rough drafts, I encourage you to do so. If you turn in your essay to me in a manila envelope, I will read it in a timely manner. Then I will offer you three or four suggestions as to how to improve your essay. However, I will NOT mark and edit your draft. (I will comment on a maximum of two drafts.)  Online Computer Requirements  Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. *Assignments and tests 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, tests, or discussion postings.*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. Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The university’s tech support, however, cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations. Yet they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into[D2L](https://d2l.mwsu.edu/)**.** |
| Mid-term 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. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students’ transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester.  Students earning below a C at the midway point should schedule a meeting with me. |
|  |

## Late Work

Late essays will be penalized one letter grade for each day that the paper is late.

## Drop Date

Last Day to drop with a grade of “W:” October 28, 2019.

## 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](https://d2l.mwsu.edu/) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

## Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classeseach semester.

## Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

## 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 <http://www.mwsu.edu/student-life/disability>.

## College Policies

### Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](https://mwsu.edu/campus-carry/rules-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.

## Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](http://catalog.mwsu.edu/content.php?catoid=14&navoid=655#Appeal_of_Course_Grade)

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

Course Schedule

Week 1 (Aug. 26-30):

Read and discuss Trimble’s “How to Write a Critical Analysis” chapter.

Read and discuss example character analysis essay on Sammy from “A&P.”

Grammar and Style Review: Fragments, Comma Splices, and Fused Sentences:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 269-78.

*LB Brief* (6th): pages 271-82*.*

Arguments:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 43-48

*LB Brief*: Thesis Statements: pages 16-20

Week 2 (Sept. 3-6):

Read and discuss “Greasy Lake” on pages 56-65 of *30/30*.

Prompt for body paragraph will be passed out.

Read and discuss Trimble’s chapters “Thinking Well” and “Getting Launched”

Grammar and Style Review: Pronoun-Antecedent:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 339-42

*LB Brief*: pages 246-50

Week 3 (Sept. 9-13):

Read and discuss “Middles” in Trimble.

Read and discuss “What You Pawn I Will Redeem” on pages 12-31 in *30/30.*

Review and discuss “circled” Sammy paragraph.

Prompt for intro will be passed out.

Body paragraph on “Greasy Lake is due. (5%)

Grammar and Style Review: Paragraphs:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 17-28

*LB Brief* : pages 42-60

Week 4 (Sept. 16-20):

Read and discuss Trimble’s “Openers.”

Read and discuss Trimble’s “Readability.”

Intro paragraph is due. (5%)

Grammar and Style Review: Introductory Paragraphs:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 28-29

*LB Brief* : pages 57-59

Week 5 (Sept. 23-27):

Read and discuss Trimble’s “Closers.”

First full essay is due. (10%)

Grammar and Style Review: Concluding Paragraphs:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: page 29

*LB Brief*: pages 59-60

Week 6 (Sept. 30-Oct. 4):

Read and discuss “The Kind of Light That Shines on Texas” (pages 223-34 in *30/30*) and “The Things They Carried” (pages 249-65).

Read and discuss Trimble’s “Diction.”

Grammar and Style Review: Conciseness:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 368-69

*LB Brief*: pages 177-82

Active/Passive Voice:

*Little Seagull* *Handbook*: 329-30

*LB Brief*: pages 230-32

Week 7 (Oct. 7-11):

Read and discuss “Fiesta, 1980” (pages 95-107 in *30/30*) and “Interpreter of Maladies” (pages 185-203).

Grammar and Style Review: Capitalization

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 409-11

*LB Brief*: pages 335-39

Week 8 (Oct. 14-18):

Read and discuss Trimble’s “Superstitions.”

Peer review assignment.

Empathy or Cultural Criticism essay is due. (10%)

Grammar and Style Review: Research Strategy:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 90-102

*LB Brief*: pages 350-58

Week 9 (Oct. 21-25):

“In-class” essay. (10%)

Introduce research paper stories.

Grammar and Style Review: Evaluating Sources:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 102-07

*LB* Brief: pages 377-89

October 28, 2019: Drop date: Last day for a “W.”

Week 10 (Oct. 28-Nov. 1): Choose a short story from the list.

Once I have confirmed your choice, find a book copy and read it.

Grammar and Style Review: Skim discussion and examples of Works Cited entries, as these are the forms you will use in your Working Bibliography:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 129-58

*LB Brief*: 429-64

Week 11 (Nov. 4-8): Working bibliography is due.

Thesis statement is due.

Grammar and Style Review: Review formatting and sample MLA paper:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 158-69

*LB Brief:* pages 464-76

Week 12 (Nov. 11-15): Scratch outline is due.

In-class essay #2. (10%)

Week 13 (Nov. 18-22): Rough drafts are due without scholarship are due.

Grammar and Style Review: Using Sources:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 107-17

*LB Brief* : pages 393-405

Week 14 (Nov. 25-26): Annotated bibliography is due. (5%)

Grammar and Style Review: Avoiding Plagiarism:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 117-18

*LB Brief*: pages 405-15

Week 15 (Dec. 2-6): Final research paper is due. (25%)

Final: (Dec. 10): You will compose another extemporaneous, in-class essay. (10%)