



College Connections

MWSU 1233-110

TR 11-1230

TASP 113 F Moffett Library

Fall 2026

Contact Information

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Office hours: MWF 8 am – 4 pm; TR 8 am – 10 am, 2 pm – 4 pm

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Course Description

The purpose of this course is to help new students make the transition to a college environment, focusing on the cognitive, behavioral, and experiential dimensions of learning. There is an emphasis on study skills as well as written and oral communication. There will be a career exploration project.

***Attendance will be required at every class.**

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will increase their **academic knowledge** in the following areas: note-taking, test-taking, studying, reading, research, critical thinking, learning strategies, time management, academic advising/planning, communication skills, and intellectual discourse.
 - a. **Learning Outcome:** Evidenced by participation in class exercises and assignments including a time management study, implementation of a daily planner, D2L/Portal, lecture notes, research project, team project/presentations, and a final exam.
2. Students will increase their **university knowledge** in the following areas: traditions, campus resources and facilities, Moffett Library, MSU policies, procedures, and regulations, and cultural experiences.
 - a. **Learning Outcome:** Evidenced by attendance of campus events/activities and reporting their experience through class discussions and filling out the Adventure Guide.
3. Students will increase their skill for living in the following areas: transition in to college, relationships, values, awareness, health & wellness, goal setting, and diversity.
 - a. **Learning Outcome:** Evidenced by participation prompt entries, goal setting, career research project/presentation, group interaction, and positive participation in class.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

There is NO required Textbook.

Required Course Materials:

- Adventure Guide (Will be used as a planner and will be provided by the University.)
 - Information on the Mustangs Adventure Guidebook: This guidebook serves as a shared experience across all incoming freshmen enrolled in any of the FYS (First Year Seminar) courses. The Adventure Log in the front of your guidebook was designed for the credit/no credit version of the FYS. You are in the College Connections version of the FYS; therefore, some of the adventure choices have been changed.
- 3 Ring Binder with dividers or Folder with brads to keep up with handouts
- Writing utensil (pen or pencil)

Tutoring Assistance

For information on Tutoring Assistance, visit the [Tutoring and Academic Support Programs](#) website

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

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](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Attendance

***ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY!** Students are required to attend all class meetings and attendance is documented at the beginning of each class period. Attendance and class participation are deemed essential. Students are advised to plan carefully regarding appointments and/or work schedules to avoid missing class. Each student is allowed up to 3 absences to deal with any emergency which might occur throughout the semester.

*Any student who misses more than 3 classes will have their letter grade dropped by 1 letter at the end of the semester no matter how many points the student has earned. An additional letter grade will then be dropped for each absence following 4. i.e. 4 absences= 1 letter grade, 5= 2 letter grades, 6= 3 letter grades, 7= 4 letter grades. Students are required to keep track of their own attendance and are responsible for knowing how many absences they have incurred.

*** A student who arrives to class 10 or more minutes late will be counted as absent. ***

Some assignments are experiential in nature and are only completed in class. If a student is absent from class on the day when one of these assignments are completed in class, they will automatically forfeit any points which might have been earned for the assignment. Personal emergencies that arise will be dealt with on an individual basis. ***Emergencies that result in a student missing multiple classes should be reported to the instructor and the Dean of Students Office.**

Grading

Table 1: Total points for final grade

Grade	Points
A	768-850
B	680-764
C	595-679
D	510-594
F	0-509

Table 2: Activity points breakdown

Activity	points
Campus Activities	5 events x 20 points each
Registration Assignments	2 assignments x 50 points each
Mustangs Adventure Guide/Planner Check	2 checks x 25 points each
Assignments	4 assignments x 25points each
Save Act	2 surveys x 50 points each
Career Project	200 points
Final Exam	100 points
Class Participation	100 points

Activities

Campus Activities

You must attend 4 campus events/activities and document them in the Activity Log in the Adventure Guide and a picture uploaded to D2L classroom. Examples of activities include a basketball game, a school production, a UPB Program, or an artist lecture series event. You may not count more than one of the same sport/activity (i.e. 5 movies) and no more than 3 of the activities can be sporting events, but they must each be a different sport.

Registration Assignments

You will be responsible for completing 2 tasks related to the registration process at MSU. Details and deadline will be discussed during the semester and will include Timely Advising (to be logged in the Adventure guide), and Timely Class Registration.

Mustangs Adventure Guide/Planner Check

You will be asked to keep the Mustangs Adventure Guidebook with logs and planners for the fall 2024 semester. The guidebook will be checked 2 separate times during the semester. Failure to produce AND/OR keep up with the guidebook will result in receiving a zero for that check.

Assignments

You will be responsible for completing selected assignments covering assigned chapters in your text. Failure to complete the assignment on the assigned date will result in a zero for that assignment. (SMART Goals, Wellness Wheel, Time Management, Quiz 1)

Save Act Assignment

To help create a safe educational environment, A NEW UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AT MSU is required to complete an online program called "Think About It" during their 1st semester on campus. You should receive log in information through the email you have listed in the system. Older students that have completed the assignment will be given a separate assignment.

Career Project

You will be asked to choose a career that interests you and research that career. You will use resources from the Career Management Center, complete a resume, compile your research findings into a portfolio, and present those findings through an in-class presentation. Details will be given later in the semester.

Final Exam

A final exam will be given on the last day of class.

Class Participation

This class is dependent on your participation. The more you participate the more you get out of it.

Due Dates

All assigned work will be due at the beginning of class on the dates specified. No late work will be accepted unless specific arrangements have been made with the instructor in advance. A missed assignment will be eligible for makeup only due to an officially excused absence with ***proper*** documentation provided, and must be scheduled the day the student returns to class. It is the student's responsibility to stay current with class activities and assignments. If documentation is provided as to the reason for the absence and the absence is excused in accordance with university policy, the student must request the missed work/materials the first class after they return.

Classroom Behavior

As adults, students are expected to behave in a respectful manner. Disrespect, an indifferent attitude, and/or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and could result in the student being dropped from the course with a grade of "F" AND referral to the Dean of Students Office. In life, there is a time and a place for everything and that same rule applies to the classroom. We will have interactive classroom discussions and activities and the utmost respect must be paid to each other at all times.

Extra Credit

Extra Credit may be offered throughout the semester.

Late Work

Late work will only be accepted when student has demonstrated a valid reason and followed University Protocols.

Make Up Work/Tests

Make-up work and or tests will be provided if the student has demonstrated valid need for the extension and followed the University Protocols.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: Friday, August 28. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#)
- Deadline to file for graduation: Monday, September 21. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#)
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" Check date on [Academic Calendar](#)
 - Part of Term A: Wednesday, October 7 at 4 p.m.
 - Part of Term B: Monday, November 23rd at 4 p.m.
 - Long Semester: Monday, November 23rd at 4 p.m.
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

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 the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Online Computer Requirements

This is a face-to-face course, but there are many assignments that will be accessed and turned in online. 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! Some of the assignments 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 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](#).

Recording Classes

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of

Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Instructor Class Policies

Academic Misconduct

Midwestern State University operates under the Student Honor Creed which states, "As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so." The [full Student Honor Creed](#) can be found on the University website.

Cell Phones

Put them away unless asked by the instructor to use them for a class exercise. Students may be asked to leave class if cell phone use continues after being asked to put them away.

Headphones/earbuds

Please do not wear headphones or earbuds during class. This is disrespectful and you may be asked to leave or be dropped from the class with an "F" if the practice continues.

Attire

Hoodies

I understand that it gets fairly cool in some classrooms; however, you will not be allowed to have a hoodie on your head during this class. Please remove all hoods from your head or you may be asked to leave the class and you could be dropped with an "F."

Pajamas

Pajamas are for the bedroom and or house not the classroom. Find a good pair of sweats to throw on for the days when jeans are too much.

Blankets

Just no.

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 Classes each 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) exist 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 Student Wellness Center, (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](#).

Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick

Title IX Coordinator

Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse

940-397-4213

laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an [online report 24/7](#).

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. Visit the [University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct](#) for more information.

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

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.

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

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

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

Course Schedule:

See the Course Outlook handout or in D2L