

**MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY  
FALL SEMESTER 2024**

**Course:** MWSU 1233-109

**Course Title:** College Connections

**Class Time:** T/TR 9:30 a.m. – 10:50a.m.

**Office Location:** 113D Moffett Library

**Office Hours:** Open door policy or by apt.

**Class Location:** 113F Moffett Library

**Instructor:** Ashley Hurst

**E-Mail:** [ashley.hurst@msutexas.edu](mailto:ashley.hurst@msutexas.edu)

**Peer Leader:** TBD

***Course Objectives:***

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 provided common read material as well as a career exploration project. Attendance will be required at selected activities and every class.

***Required Course Materials & Texts:***

- Something to hold all of your class materials
- The First-year Mustangs Adventure Guide (provided at Mustang's Roundup or on the first day of class)

***Attendance:***

Because class participation and in-class assignments are such a large part of this class, attendance is very important. Attendance will be taken during each class. Arrive to class on time. **You are allowed two unexcused absences. For every unexcused absence after, 10 points will be subtracted from your attendance grade.** Medical absences must be documented by a physician. Other emergencies must be communicated to the instructor PRIOR TO CLASS.

***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 online <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/conduct/>

***Diversity Statement:***

Tutoring and Academic Support embraces a notion of the intellectual community enriched and enhanced by diversity along a number of dimensions, including race, ethnicity and national origins, gender and gender identity, sexuality, class and religion. We are especially committed to increasing and supporting those populations that have been historically excluded from participation in U.S. higher education.

***Documented Disability:***

- In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations are made for any student with a documented disability. Students should register with Disability Support Services. More information can be found here: <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/disability/>
- Requests for accommodation are acceptable at any time during the semester, but you are encouraged to contact me in person, or via email, as early as possible.

***Other Classroom Considerations:***

- Assignments not submitted in class due to an excused absence must be turned in the following class period. If you are unable to attend class and an assignment is due that day, it is your responsibility to get the assignment to your instructor PRIOR to class that day.
- I understand that cellphones are an important appendage to us all. Be courteous to me and to your peers, and don't let them become a distraction.
- Other topics may be added by the instructor; changes and modifications to the syllabus may be made throughout the semester, but you'll be notified promptly.
- Extra credit opportunities will be given throughout the semester in addition to the opportunities noted in the course outline below at the instructor's discretion. All extra credit opportunities will be worth **10 points each**.
- Written reports are to be typed in a 12-point font and double-spaced.
- Since the success of this course relies on our ability to successfully and maturely communicate goals and opinions, the instructor and students will observe mutual respect and consideration.

***Course Requirements and Points: (1000 Total Points Possible)***

***Grades:***

The basis for the final grade will be the total of assignments, projects, tests, and participation. In other words, everything a student does in and for class counts. Students must demonstrate competency in writing through The Adventure Guide and other written work, in oral communication through class presentations and participation, and computer competency through specified assignments. Grades will be as follows: (A) 900-1000, (B) 800-899, (C) 700-799, (D) 600-699, and (F) 599 and below.

***Grading Scale:***

**A** = 1000-900 points

**B** = 899-800 points

**C** = 799-700 points

**D** = 699-600 points

**F** = 599-0 points

***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.

**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. Please see the following table of required adventures with grading breakdowns:

Adventure	Date	What did you do?	Points available
1	August 29 <sup>th</sup>	Attend a Campus Presentation	Part of Participation grade
2	November	Met with my academic advisor to schedule spring classes!	<b>100</b> points to be awarded in <b>Registration Assignments</b> for this course.
3	November	Attend a Financial Literacy Workshop.	Part of Participation grade
4			20 pts Campus Activities
5			20 pts Campus Activities
6			20 pts Campus Activities
7			20 pts Campus Activities
8			20 pts Campus Activities

**MWSU 1233: College Connections**

**Campus Activities**

**5 events x 20 points each**

**100 Points**

You must attend 5 campus events/activities and document them in the Activity Log in the Adventure Guide. Examples of activities include a basketball game, a school production, a UPB Program, a workshop, 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 two of the activities can be sporting events.

**Registration Assignments**

**2 assignments x 50 points each**

**100 Points**

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 scheduling an appointment with your advisor and timely class registration.

**Mustangs Adventure Guide**

**2 checks x 25/75 points each**

**100 Points**

You will be asked to keep the Mustangs Adventure Guidebook with logs and planners for the 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.

**Quizzes** **2 quizzes x 50 points each**  
**100 Points**

You will be responsible for completing selected quizzes covering assigned chapters in your text. Failure to complete the quiz on the assigned date will result in a zero for that quiz.

**Common Experience Assignments** **2 assignments x 50 points each**  
**100 Points**

During the semester, you will be responsible for completing 2 assignments that relate to the common experience.

**Save Act Assignment** **1 survey x 100 points**  
**100 Points**

To help create a safe educational environment, a new undergraduate student is required to complete an online program called “Think About It” during their 1<sup>st</sup> semester on campus. You should receive log in information through the email you have listed in the system. Students that have completed the assignment will be given a separate assignment.

**Career Project** **1 project x 200 Points**  
**200 Points**

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** **1 exam x 100 points**  
**100**

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

**Class Participation**  
**100 Points**

**(1,000 Points Total)**

### ***Obligation to Report 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 at  
[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout\\_id=6](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout_id=6)

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit <https://msutexas.edu/titleix/>