



Course Syllabus: COUN 2143: Human Experiences

West College of Education

12342 Section 103

Fall 2025 August 25th – December 14th

Contact Information

Instructor: Mr. Giancarlo Martini

Office: (940) 600-2001

Mentoring Hours: Mon to Wed 9:00Am – 11:00Am

Office phone: (940) 397-4779

Cell Phone: (940) 600-2001

E-mail: Giancarlo.martini@msutexas.edu

Instructor Response Policy

I'm committed to supporting your success and keeping communication open and responsive. I aim to reply to emails and D2L messages within **24-48 hours on weekdays**. * If you contact me over the weekend or during holidays, I'll respond as soon as possible the following business day.

For time-sensitive concerns (e.g., assignment questions, absences, or urgent issues), please include "Urgent" in the subject line or feel free to reach out via my cell phone during reasonable hours.

If I anticipate any delays in responding, due to travel, illness, or university obligations, I'll communicate that in advance via D2L announcements.

Your questions and ideas matter, so don't hesitate to reach out. I'm here to help you navigate the course and grow throughout the semester.

Course Description

A study of perspectives shaped by individual, family, and community experiences, incorporating inquiry and research to deepen understanding.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies

1. Explain concepts such as stereotypes, lifestyles, class, racism, sexism, sensitivity, tolerance, etc.
2. Critically examine minority group contributions to American society.
3. Demonstrate an awareness of the cultural experience of groups other than his/her own.
4. Understand what is involved in developing wholesome self-identities
5. Evidence awareness and justification of the need and value of multiculturalism

6. Distinguish similarities and differences among majority and minority cultures
7. Recognize communication patterns in self and others that enhance or inhibit the communication process
8. Synthesize the communication patterns of diverse populations and how they relate to interpersonal relations
9. Summarize scholarly resources related to different human experiences

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

The TASP offers a schedule of tutoring assistance for selected subjects. Please contact the TASP at (940) 397- 4684, or visit the ASC homepage for more information, Tutoring [Program](#)

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](#)

Grading/Assessment

This in-person course includes four major assignments, each designed to build your skills in reflection, analysis, and synthesis. These assignments, Autobiography, Research Topic Proposal, Argument Analysis, Field Notes Paper, and Synthesis Paper, are to be described in detail within first weeks of class.

They are sequenced to guide you from personal insight to scholarly integration. In addition to these written components, your active participation during class sessions, through discussion, collaboration, and engagement with course activities, will also factor into your final grade, emphasizing the importance of showing up and contributing meaningfully to our shared learning environment.

Table 1:

Assignments	Points
Autobiography	15
Argument Analysis	15
Field Notes	10
Synthesis Paper	25
Actives/Reflection	10
Participation	25

TOTAL POINTS:

100

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	Less than 60

Extra Credit

To encourage deeper engagement with the themes of identity and community, students may earn extra credit by participating in approved enrichment activities that extend learning beyond the classroom. These opportunities are designed to reinforce course objectives and foster personal reflection, cultural awareness, and scholarly inquiry.

Eligible extra credit activities may include:

- Attending a campus or community event focused on multiculturalism followed by a brief reflection, connecting the experience to course concepts.
- Conducting a short interview with someone from a cultural background different from your own and submitting a 1–2 page analysis of communication patterns, identity formation, or lived experience.
- Reviewing and summarizing a scholarly article related to identity, or diverse group contributions, with emphasis on how it expands your understanding of course themes.
- Creating a visual or written artifact (e.g., infographic, poem, short essay) that synthesizes key ideas from the course and reflects your personal growth or evolving perspective.

All extra credit submissions must be approved in advance and submitted by the designated deadline. A maximum of 7 points may be earned toward your final grade. These opportunities are optional and intended to support your learning journey, not to replace required coursework.

Late Work

Life happens, and while deadlines help keep us on track, I understand that unexpected challenges can arise. If you anticipate needing extra time on an assignment, please reach out before the due date so we can discuss options. Late work submitted without prior communication may receive a deduction of up to 10% per day, depending on the circumstances. After one week past the deadline, assignments may no longer be accepted unless we've made prior arrangements.

My goal is to support your learning while maintaining fairness for everyone. If you're navigating personal, family, or community challenges, don't hesitate to connect, I'm here to help you succeed.

Make Up Work/Tests

If you miss a class activity, quiz, or assignment due to illness, family emergency, or other documented circumstances, you may request make-up work within one week of the original due date. Please email me as soon as possible so we can discuss a plan that supports your success.

Make-up opportunities are not automatic and may differ from the original assignment to preserve academic integrity. I aim to be fair and flexible, especially when life throws curveballs, but proactive communication is key. If you're facing ongoing challenges, I encourage you to reach out early. Together, we can find a path forward that keeps you engaged and on track.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 28, 2025, Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation: September 22, 2025, Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" October 8, 2025, Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

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.

Attendance

Attendance is a vital part of your success in this course and contributes meaningfully to the collaborative learning environment we're building together. Students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions and arrive on time, as consistent presence supports deeper engagement, respectful dialogue, and the development of cultural awareness, core goals of our Human Diversity curriculum. If you must miss class due to illness, family emergency, or other significant circumstances, please notify me in advance whenever possible. Absences accompanied by timely communication may be excused and supported with make-up opportunities, while unexcused absences may impact participation grades and limit access to in-class activities. If you do miss a class, you are responsible for reviewing materials, completing any missed work, and staying connected with your peers or with me for clarification. I recognize that students come from diverse backgrounds and may face unique challenges, so if you're

navigating personal, cultural, or community responsibilities, I encourage you to reach out early. My goal is to support your learning while honoring the lived experiences you bring to the classroom.

Online Computer Requirements

To fully engage with the online components of this course, students will need reliable access to a computer with a stable internet connection. A desktop or laptop is strongly recommended, as mobile devices may not support all features of our learning management system, D2L (Desire2Learn). Your device should be capable of running an updated web browser (such as Chrome, Firefox, or Edge), accessing PDFs and Word documents, and supporting audio and video playback for multimedia content and virtual meetings. If you anticipate any challenges with technology access, please reach out early so we can explore campus resources or alternative arrangements. My goal is to ensure that every student can participate fully, regardless of their starting point. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Instructor Class Policies

Students enrolled in this course are expected to uphold professional standards of conduct that reflect respect for all students. While there is no formal dress code, attire should be appropriate for a university classroom and conducive to a respectful academic environment. Attendance is required and essential to your success; students are expected to arrive on time, participate actively, and communicate promptly regarding any absences. Repeated tardiness or unexcused absences may impact participation grades and limit access to in-class activities. Classroom etiquette includes listening attentively, engaging thoughtfully in discussions, and maintaining a space where all voices are heard and valued. Disruptive behavior, including side conversations, use of devices for non-course purposes, or disrespectful language, will be addressed in accordance with university policy. As your instructor, I am committed to fostering a supportive and intellectually engaging environment, and I ask that you bring the same commitment to our shared learning experience.

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather or other emergency conditions that affect campus operations, this course will follow official guidance from Midwestern State University. If classes are canceled or delayed, I will communicate any changes to our schedule, assignments, or expectations via D2L and email. When possible, alternative learning activities may be provided online to ensure continuity. Students are encouraged to prioritize safety and check university announcements regularly. If weather conditions prevent you from attending class, even when campus remains open, please notify me as soon as possible so we can discuss options for staying on track.

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) 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 [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 MSU TEXAS 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.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

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 [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). 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."](#)

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 [Online Reporting Form](#)

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 [Title IX Website](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. 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:

Week	Theme	Focus & Activities
One 8/25 to 8/31	Course Introduction & Defining Human Experience	Syllabus review, norms, Icebreakers
Two 9/1 to 9/7	Stereotypes, Bias & Social Perception	Implicit bias test, stereotype deconstruction
Three 9/8 to 9/14	Lifestyles, Class & Social Structures Introduce Autobiography Assignment	Class simulation, lifestyle mapping
Four 9/15 to 9/21	Racism, Sexism & Systemic Inequality	Historical overview, intersectionality workshop Autobiography Due**
Five 9/22 to 9/28	Sensitivity, Tolerance & Mindsets	Empathy mapping, tolerance spectrum activity
Six 9/29 to 10/5	Minority Contributions to American Society Introduce Field Notes Assignment	Case studies, cultural showcase
Seven 10/6 to 10/12	Experience & Identity Formation	Guest speaker Field Notes Due**

Eight 10/13 to 10/19	Researching Introduce Argument Analysis Assignment	Review, student-led Q&A
Nine 10/20 to 10/26	Multiculturalism & Global Perspectives	Experience frameworks, policy analysis
Ten 10/27 to 11/2	Majority vs. Minority Cultures	Comparative analysis, cultural mapping Argument Analysis Assignment Due**
Eleven 11/3 to - 11/9	Communication Patterns & Cultural Norms	Nonverbal cues, code-switching, storytelling
Twelve 11/10 to 11/16	Communication & Interpersonal Relations	Conflict styles, listening labs
Thirteen 11/17 to 11/23	Wholesome Self-Identity & Personal Growth Introduce Synthesis Paper	Self-concept mapping, resilience strategies
Fourteen 11/24 to 11/30	**THANKSGIVING BREAK**	**BREAK**
Fifteen 12/1 to 12/7	Advocacy, Allyship & Social Change Synthesis Paper Reminder	Action planning, community engagement
Sixteen 12/8 to 12/14	Final Presentations & Course Reflection	Student presentations, closing circle Synthesis Paper Due**