



Course Syllabus: Human Experiences
West College of Education
20496 COUN 2143 Section 201
Spring 26 January 20th – May 10th

Contact Information

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Instructor Response Policy

In this course, I'm here to support you and make sure you feel heard and guided every step of the way. I do my best to respond to messages within 24-48 hours during the week. If you reach out over the weekend or on a holiday, I may need a little extra time, but I'll get back to you by the next business day or 48 hours after at the latest. When it comes to assignments, I aim to return feedback within seven business days. In this course, all meetings with the instructor must be scheduled during designated mentoring hours, which are posted in the syllabus. These hours are set aside specifically to support students through one-on-one guidance, assignment feedback, and academic mentoring. To ensure availability and maintain a structured learning environment, students are expected to book appointments in advance by contacting me directly via email. Meetings requested outside of mentoring hours may not be accommodated, except in cases of emergency or with prior approval. This policy helps maintain consistency and ensures that every student has fair access to personalized support. I'm happy to help with anything related to course content or expectations. If you're having technical issues, though, the support team is your best bet for a speedy fix. And if you're dealing with something personal or need accommodations, please don't hesitate to contact me privately. For anything urgent, just mark it clearly in the subject line so I can prioritize it.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

If applicable

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. **Analyze** research on how organizational, individual, family, and community experiences shape perspectives and influence human interactions.
2. **Evaluate research** of varying viewpoints by applying course concepts to real-world media, narratives, and case studies.

3. **Develop critical thinking** and inquiry skills to interpret the motivations, values, and societal influences behind varying perspectives.
4. **Reflect** on and interpret research to gain insights into human interaction and relationships.
5. **Synthesize** insights gained from perspective analysis to deepen awareness of the complexities of human experiences and interactions.

Course Objectives

Undergraduate students enrolled in this course are expected to meet high academic standards and demonstrate a serious commitment to scholarly work. You are required to integrate and apply knowledge from previous coursework, showing that you can research, evaluate, and incorporate credible sources with precision and integrity. A professional tone and critical thinking are mandatory in all assignments and discussions. APA formatting is **not optional***, it is a strict requirement. Every written submission must fully comply with current APA guidelines, including correct in-text citations, reference lists, headings, and document structure. Errors in citation, formatting, punctuation, or capitalization will result in grade deductions. If you are unfamiliar with APA style, it is your responsibility to consult the APA Manual or university writing resources such as the [OWL at Purdue](#). Late submissions, careless writing, or lack of engagement **will not*** be tolerated. All work must be proofread, clearly organized, and demonstrate thoughtful analysis. Your contributions should reflect a strong connection to course objectives and your academic development. This course holds you accountable to a rigorous standard, and consistent adherence to APA style is a key measure of your readiness to meet it.

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

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

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](#)

AI Usage Policy

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools (including but not limited to generative text platforms, code assistants, and image generators) is permitted in this course only under specific conditions that uphold academic integrity, intellectual rigor, and ethical standards.

1. Permitted Use Students may use AI tools to:
 - a. Brainstorm ideas or explore topics
 - b. Summarize publicly available information
 - c. Generate outlines or structure for assignments

All AI-assisted work must be critically reviewed, edited, and personalized by the student. The final submission must reflect the student's own understanding, voice, and academic effort.

2. Prohibited Use AI tools must not be used to:
- Generate entire assignments or discussion posts without substantial human input
 - Fabricate sources, citations, or data
 - Bypass learning objectives or misrepresent original work
 - Complete assessments, quizzes, or exams unless explicitly allowed

Use of AI in violation of these guidelines may be considered academic misconduct and subject to disciplinary action.

3. Instructor Discretion The instructor reserves the right to restrict or prohibit AI use for specific assignments or activities. Any such restrictions will be communicated in advance through assignment instructions or course announcements.

Syllabus Disclaimer

This syllabus is designed to guide your learning, though adjustments to assignments, due dates, and grading criteria may occur as needed throughout the term. Any updates will be communicated clearly through:

- Direct Classroom communication
- The relevant assignment sections in D2L
- Announcements in the “News” area
- Messages sent via D2L email

Please make it a habit to check D2L regularly so you don’t miss important changes. While I will always do my best to alert you to any discrepancies between the syllabus and what’s posted in D2L, please use the D2L assignment instructions as your primary source of truth for deadlines and expectations. You’ll have ample time built into the schedule to support your success, and I encourage you to submit assignments on time. If unforeseen circumstances affect your ability to meet a deadline, reach out, I’m here to support you.

Grading/Assessment

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Quizzes (5 at 20 pts each)	100
Homework (5 @ 20 pts each)	100
Autobiography Paper (Dropbox)	25
Growth Mindset Paper (Dropbox)	25
Perspective Paper (Dropbox)	25
Participation & Attendance	25
Total Points	300

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	270
B	240 to 269
C	210 to 239
D	180 to 209
F	Less than 180

Homework

Homework in this course is **a required and non-negotiable part of your academic responsibilities***. All assignments must be completed and submitted in class or via the designated platform by the stated deadline. Late work will only be accepted with prior approval and may be subject to grade penalties. Repeated failure to submit homework on time will result in a loss of participation credit and may impact your overall grade. Homework is designed to reinforce key concepts, prepare you for discussion, and support your growth in this course. It is expected that all work reflects your own effort and adheres to academic integrity standards. Plagiarism or dishonesty **will not*** be tolerated and will be reported according to university policy. Take homework seriously, it is essential to your success in this class

Quizzes

Quizzes in this course are mandatory and serve as checkpoints to assess your understanding of key concepts. All quizzes will be **administered in person*** on the scheduled date, **no make-up quizzes will be offered without documented justification and prior approval***. **If you miss a quiz due to an unexcused absence, you will receive a zero. *** Quizzes are timed, without notes, and must be completed individually. Academic dishonesty of any kind will result in disciplinary action. **It is your responsibility*** to come prepared, manage your time effectively, and take each quiz seriously. These assessments are designed to reinforce learning and ensure you're keeping pace with the course material.

Extra Credit

No* extra credit assignments will be given or accepted in this course.

Late Work

Late work is not accepted* without prior approval. All assignments must be submitted on time, either in class or through the designated platform, by the posted deadline. If you anticipate a conflict, it is your responsibility to communicate with me **before*** the due date. **Unexcused late submissions will receive a zero. *** Extensions may be granted only in cases of documented emergencies or university-approved circumstances and must be requested in writing. Repeated late submissions, even with communication, may result in grade penalties and loss of participation credit. This policy is designed to promote accountability, fairness, and respect for the learning process. Plan ahead, manage your time, and meet deadlines consistently.

Dropbox Assignments

This course includes three major assignments, each of which must be submitted through your individual Dropbox folder, which is directly linked to the gradebook. The Dropbox will activate when a submission is available for review. To ensure proper assessment and recordkeeping, all assignments must be uploaded directly to the designated Dropbox; **submissions sent via email will not be accepted or graded under any circumstances. *** Although each Dropbox is unique to the individual student, all submitted documents must include your full name and follow the required file naming: LastNameFirstInitial_Course AssignmentName (e.g., MartiniG_COUN 2143 Autobiography). Assignments are expected to be submitted by the posted deadlines. Please note that the instructor will not make individual adjustments to assignments. If you are unable to complete an assignment as designed due to unforeseen circumstances, it is **your responsibility*** to propose a reasonable alternative and present it for approval in advance of the deadline. Requests made after the due date **will not*** be considered. Timely communication and proactive problem-solving are essential to maintaining academic standards and ensuring fairness across the course.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: **January 23rd 2026** Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
Deadline to file for graduation: **February 16th 2026** Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" **March 18th 2026** 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

Regular attendance is required and essential for success in this course. This is an interactive, discussion-based course, and your presence directly impacts your learning and the learning of others. Students are expected to attend **all*** scheduled class sessions and arrive on time. **Excessive absences (defined as more than three unexcused class meetings) will result in a reduction of your participation grade and may jeopardize your ability to pass the course***. If you must miss class due to illness, emergency, or university-approved activities, **you*** are responsible for notifying me in advance and arranging to make up any missed work. **Tardiness, early departures, or disengagement during class may also affect your attendance record.*** This policy is designed to uphold academic standards and foster a respectful, engaged learning environment.

Online Computer Requirements

All students are required to have reliable access to a computer and internet connection throughout the semester. Assignments will be submitted online through D2L, and it is the student's responsibility to ensure their technology is functioning properly. All work is due by the posted deadline, and personal computer issues **will not*** be accepted as valid reasons for late submissions. Students are expected to plan, back up their work, and use campus resources if needed. This policy is non-negotiable and designed to maintain fairness and academic integrity across the course. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Instructor Class Policies

As your instructor, I am committed to maintaining a respectful, structured, and academically rigorous classroom environment. I expect students to arrive on time, prepared, and ready to engage. Disruptive behavior, excessive tardiness, or lack of participation **will not*** be tolerated and **may result in grade penalties or removal from class***. Communication should always remain professional, I reserve the right to modify the syllabus or course schedule as needed, and students will be notified promptly of any changes. It is your responsibility to stay informed, meet expectations, and uphold the standards of this course.

Student Conduct Policy

Students enrolled in this course are expected to uphold the highest standards of conduct, both in and out of the classroom. Respect for peers, instructors, and the learning environment is non-negotiable. Disruptive behavior (including side conversations, use of electronic devices for non-academic purposes, or disrespectful language), **will not*** be tolerated and **may result in removal from class or disciplinary action***. This course encourages open dialogue, but all contributions must be made in a spirit of professionalism, fairness, and academic integrity. Students are expected to follow university policies regarding behavior, plagiarism, and harassment. Violations will be documented and addressed

according to institutional procedures. Your conduct reflects your commitment to learning, take it seriously

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, this course will follow official university guidance regarding campus closures or delays. If the university remains open, students are expected to attend class as scheduled. Missed class due to weather-related concerns will only be excused if the university has issued a formal closure or delay notice. If class is canceled, assignments and deadlines will still be enforced unless otherwise communicated. Students are responsible for checking D2L and their university email for updates. It is your responsibility to stay informed and prepared, weather disruptions do not automatically grant extensions or exemptions.

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 or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1 1/20 to 1/25	Course Introduction & Defining Human Experience Syllabus Review	Quiz 1 – Thursday 1/22
Week 2 1/26 to 2/1	Defining Your Experience Introduce Autobiography Paper	Homework 1 – Tuesday 1/27
Week 3 2/2 to 2/8	Autobiography Paper (How-to) Work Period	Autobiography – 2/1
Week 4 2/9 to 2/15	Lifestyles, Class & Social Structures	Homework 2 – Tuesday 2/10
Week 5 2/16 to 2/22	Research 101 & 102	Quiz 2 – Thursday 2/19
Week 6 2/23 to 3/1	Leadership 101	Homework 3 – Tuesday 2/24
Week 7 3/2 to 3/8	Empathy & Growth Mindsets Introduce Growth Mindset Paper	Quiz 3 – Thursday 3/5
Week 8 3/9 to 3/15	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
Week 9 3/16 to 3/22	Mindset Paper (How-to) Work Period	Mindset Paper – 3/22
Week 10 3/23 to 3/29	Organizational Dynamics	Quiz 4 – Thursday 3/26
Week 11 3/30 to 4/5	Generational Dynamics	Homework 4 – Tuesday 3/31
Week 12 4/6 to 4/12	Communication 101	Quiz 5 – Thursday 4/9
Week 13 4/13 to 4/19	Technology in Interpersonal Communication	Homework 5- Tuesday 4/14
Week 14 4/20 to 4/26	Emotional Intelligence Introduce Perspective Paper	

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 15 4/27 to 5/3	Perspective Paper (How-to) Work Period	Perspective Paper- 5/10
Week 16 5/4 to 5/10	Perspective Paper Due Class Reflection	Perspective Paper- 5/10