



## **Course Syllabus: Human Experiences**

**College of Education  
COUN 2143 Section Y10  
Bridwell Room 204**

**Monday and Wednesday 9:00-9:50, Friday Online**

### **Contact Information**

Instructor: DaNette Stalnaker

Office: Counseling Center, Wellness Center

Office hours: Monday, 8:00-9:00, Tuesday 8:00-9:00, Wednesday 8:00-9:00, Thursday 8:00-9:00, Friday 8:00-9:00. Afternoon options available by appointment.

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### **How to Contact Me**

**The best way to contact me is through my MSU email. My MSU email address is [danette.stalnaker@msutexas.edu](mailto:danette.stalnaker@msutexas.edu).** This is the quickest method to reach me. You can expect a response within 24 hours, however, it could be a little longer on weekends or holidays.

### **Course Description**

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

### **Course Content and Skills**

- Analyze research on** how individual, family, and community experiences shape perspectives and influence human interactions.
- 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.

## **Textbook & Instructional Materials**

There is no textbook for this course. Online resources, readings, supplementary reading material will be provided within the course.

## **Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance**

Tutoring is available to all enrolled MSU students through the Tutoring and Academic Support Program (TASP). Located on the first floor of Moffett Library, TASP's Learning Center offers drop-in tutoring support for most general subject areas including but not limited to Writing, Math, Science, Psychology, History, and Foreign Languages. Students check in to work one-on-one with a tutor typically for an hour regarding specific concepts. To check the availability of tutors in a specific subject area, consult the tutoring link below. *The Learning Center observes all campus holidays and closures.*

## **Student Handbook**

Refer to: Student Handbook <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/assets/files/handbook.pdf>

## **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.

## **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 individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/conduct/>

### **AI-Chat GPT**

Artificial intelligence (AI) can be a valuable tool in academic writing, offering support with brainstorming, organization, and clarity; however, it must be used ethically, accurately, and responsibly.

In a collegiate environment, all students are expected to demonstrate academic integrity and develop their own voice in writing. Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are central to the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments must be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in these areas will prepare you for success in a competitive workplace.

While AI tools serve as helpful resources to guide learning and improve communication, they should never replace a student's own original work. Copying and pasting directly from AI tools or submitting AI-generated content as your own constitutes plagiarism and will not be tolerated. If AI is used, its use must be disclosed within the assignment. Ultimately, academic work should reflect your own thinking and writing.

### **Grading & Scale – 1 point equals 1%**

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Points</b>
Autobiography	200
Research Approach Perspective	100
Argument Analysis Approach Perspective	200
Observation Approach Perspective	200
Synthesis Paper	200
Reflections and Class Participation	100

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Points</b>
Total Points	1000

### **Grades and Percentages of Final**

Grade	Points
A	900-1000
B	800-899
C	700-799
D	600-699
F	Less than 600

### **Weekly Discussion Boards**

For each Discussion Board, post a thoughtful response to the assigned video or article by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Your response should be written in APA format, well-organized, address all aspects of the material presented, and show clear critical thinking.

### **Required Assignments**

#### **Autobiography**

To better understand researcher positioning, you will create an Autobiography to assist the student in reflecting on life experiences and how these have shaped the student's perspective. A template and rubric will be provided to assist you with writing this assignment.

#### **Research Approach Perspective**

Students will choose a case study for their Research Approach Perspective from a list provided by the professor or a topic of the student's choosing approved by the instructor. The chosen theme or topic of focus and its relevance to understanding perspectives will be discussed throughout the paper. This topic will be utilized to complete the Argument Analysis Perspective paper. A template and rubric will be provided to assist you with writing this assignment.

### **Argument Analysis Perspective**

Students will examine their own perspective and then examine different perspectives on their selected case study. This assignment will assist the student in developing a deeper understanding of how individual, family, and community experiences shape individual perspectives. A template and rubric will be provided to assist you with writing this assignment.

### **Observation Approach Perspective**

Utilizing the student's chosen case study topic, the student will analyze the topic from a media source perspective. A template and rubric will be provided to assist you with writing this assignment.

### **Synthesis Paper**

Students will take the data gathered through their Autobiography, Research Approach, Argument Analysis, Observation Approach, and classroom discussions and synthesize their findings in this final paper. A template and rubric will be provided to assist you with writing this assignment.

### **Extra Credit**

Extra credit will not be accepted for any assignments.

### **Late Work**

**No late work will be accepted.** Students are expected to be on time with assignments and to complete every assignment. Because all assignments are posted from the beginning of the semester and will be submitted online, "make up" work should not be an issue. Exceptions to this are exceedingly rare and will be considered on a case-by-case basis with proper documentation.

## Important Dates

- **Last day for term schedule changes:** January 23, 2026. Check dates on [Academic Calendar](#).
- **Deadline to file for graduation:** May graduates, February 16, 2026. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- **Last Day to drop with a grade of "W":** April 28, 2026. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- **Refer to:** [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Check the MSU Academic Calendar and this semester's Schedule of Classes for important information including, but not limited to: last day for term schedule changes; deadline to file for graduation; last day to drop with a grade of "W"; change of schedule; and refund and repayment policies.

It is the candidate's responsibility to visit with their academic advisor prior to withdrawing from a class must come to the Dean of Students office located in the Clark Student Center, room 104, to fill out a withdrawal slip.

An instructor may drop a candidate any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct. The instructor must give the candidate a verbal or written warning prior to dropping the candidate from the class. An instructor's drop of a candidate takes precedence over the candidate-initiated course drop of a later date. The instructor will assign a grade of either WF or F through the first 8 weeks of a long semester, the first 6 weeks of a 10-week summer term, or the 11th class day of a 4 or 5 week summer term consisting of 20 days. After these periods the grade will be an F. The date the instructor drop form is received in the Office of the Registrar is the official drop date.

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, Participation, and Assignment Submission**

Professionals are dependable, reliable, and responsible. Class attendance according to your assigned Face-to-Face schedule is **mandatory**. Attendance and participation in the classroom are essential parts of this course. Participation points will be deducted for each absence, as well as failure to participate in class discussions and activities. Students are expected to be on time for class. Students who are absent for three classes without acceptable documentation may be dropped from the course.

**No late work will be accepted.** Students are expected to be on time with assignments and to complete every assignment. Because all assignments are posted from the beginning of the semester and will be submitted online, "make up" work should not be an issue. Exceptions to this are exceedingly rare and will be considered on a case-by-case basis with proper documentation.

## **Online Computer Requirements**

This class is a hybrid course, meaning it is both face-to-face in the classroom and online. Taking a course with an online component 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 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](#).

## **Instructor Class Policies**

Candidates are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment which is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all candidates have the opportunity to gain from time spent in this class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, candidates are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction—this includes, but is not limited to, pagers and cell phones.

### **Electronic communications devices will be turned off anytime the class member is in the virtual school building or in a field experience.**

Inappropriate behavior in the virtual classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class and a Professional Fitness Form will be filed for review with the college. If the instructor must file a Fitness Alert Form for any reason, including failure to demonstrate appropriate teaching dispositions, the candidate may receive an instructor drop with an "F" for the course.

## **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).

## **Inclement Weather**

In the case of campus closure due to inclement weather, this class will follow the university's directive. If the campus is closed, class will be canceled. If the campus has a delayed start time that is **past** the class start time, class will be canceled for that day. **Be sure you have the MSU Alert app downloaded and also check the university's website for up-to-date information regarding campus closures and delays.**

## **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 <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/disability/>

## **College Policies**

### **Campus Carry Rules/Policies**

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 as 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, refer to:  
<https://msutexas.edu/campus-carry/>

## **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 [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](mailto: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**

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog at

[https://msutexas.edu/academics/scienceandmath/\\_assets/files/grade\\_appeal\\_checklist1.pdf](https://msutexas.edu/academics/scienceandmath/_assets/files/grade_appeal_checklist1.pdf)

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

## COUN 2143 Human Experiences

### Assignment Schedule Spring 2026

Week	Dates	Topics/Focus	Reading*	Assignment Due
1	Jan 20-25	Introductions Discussion Guidelines Introductory Activities	<i>Review syllabus and due date schedule</i>	<b>Discussion post introducing yourself to the class.</b>
2	Jan 26-Feb 8	Overview	<i>Analyzing Perspectives</i>	<b>Discussion post. Please use APA format and remember to cite your source.</b>
3	Feb 9-15	Success	<i>Success and Society</i>	<b>Discussion post. Please use APA format and remember to cite your source.</b>
4	Feb 16-22	Social Media	<i>Social Media</i>	<b>Discussion post. Please use APA format and remember to cite your source.</b>
5	Feb 23-Mar 1	Autobiography	<i>Autobiography</i>	<b>Autobiography Due March 1</b>
6	Mar 2-8	Understanding Research	<i>Research</i>	<b>Discussion post. Please use APA format and remember to cite your source.</b>
7	Mar 9-15	<b>Spring Break</b>	<b>Open Week – No Assignments Due</b>	<b>Have fun and be safe!!!</b>
8	Mar 16-22	Research Approach Perspective	Research Approach Perspective	<b>Research Approach Perspective Due March 22</b>
9	Mar 23-Mar 29	Communication	<i>Communicating Effectively</i>	<b>Discussion post. Please use APA format and remember to cite your source.</b>

10	Mar 30- Apr 5	Personality Traits and Belonging <b>Easter Break 4/2-4/5</b>	<i>Community Belonging</i>	<b>Discussion post. Please use APA format and remember to cite your source.</b>
11	Apr 6-12	Argument Analysis Approach Perspective	Argument Analysis Approach Perspective	<b>Argument Analysis Approach Perspective Due April 12</b>
12	Apr 13-19	Teamwork	<i>Working as a Team</i>	<b>Discussion post. Please use APA format and remember to cite your source.</b>
13	Apr 20-26	Leadership	<i>Providing and Working with Effective Leadership</i>	<b>Discussion post. Please use APA format and remember to cite your source.</b>
14	Apr 27-May 3	Observation Approach Perspective	Observation Approach Perspective	<b>Observation Approach Perspective Due May 3</b>
15	May 5-May 10	Complete Synthesis Paper	Synthesis Paper	<b>Synthesis Paper due by 11:59 p.m. in D2L AND TK20 May 10</b>

\* Reading for the week must be completed and ready to discuss in class on Monday each week.

\*\*All assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. on the due date.

