Course Description: English 1143

Instructor: Greg Giddings

Email: [greg.giddings@mwsu.edu](mailto:greg.giddings@mwsu.edu) (Preferred to phone calls.)

Office: Bea Wood 235

Phone: 397-4476

Office hours:

T-Th: 9:30-12:30 and W: 7:45-11:45

Required Texts:

*Writing with Style: Conversations on the Art of Writing* by John Trimble—Prentice-Hall, publisher. (Any of the three editions is fine, although the first two will be significantly less expensive.)

*30/30: Thirty American Stories from the Last Thirty Years* edited by Porter Shreve and B. Minh Nguyen—Pearson-Longman, publisher.

*The Little Seagull Handbook* by Bullock, Brody, and Weinberg, W.W. Norton, publisher.

Course Goals:

-- Apply knowledge of rhetoric to make decisions about written communication.

--Compose thesis-based academic arguments that provide strong support and specific details.

--Engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, and revision.

--Demonstrate proficient use of Standard Written English.

--Find, evaluate, and synthesize credible sources in support of a research paper.

--Document sources responsibly and follow a designated style guide.

Additional information about course objectives can be found on the department webpage, http://libarts.mwsu.edu/english/.

Course Requirements: Two paragraphs (10%)

Two essays of 600-800 words (20%)

Research paper of a minimum of >1500 words (25%)

Annotated bibliography (5%)

Two “in-class” essays (20%)

Class participation and a required peer review (10%)

Final “in-class” essay (10%)

Note regarding research paper project: This assignment will involve several individual smaller assignments, all having specific due dates. Students must complete all of these tasks punctually and in order. Otherwise, I will not accept your final submission.

This class will not use the plus/minus grading system. In this class, the following numerical equivalents for final grades are used: A = 100-90%; B = 89-80%; C = 79-70%; D = 69-60%; F = 59-0%.

According to MSU’s Undergraduate Catalogue, “letter grades have the following significance:

* A indicates excellent work
* B indicates good work
* C indicates satisfactory work
* D indicates passing work
* F indicates failing work”

Consequently, essays that meet the basic requirements earn a C, not an A or B. If you wish to earn As and Bs, you will have to work harder to produce better than satisfactory, or average, writing.

Attendance Policy: Excessive absences can result in your being dropped from class. Furthermore, daily grades cannot be made up, so they are an incentive to attend class regularly.

Late Work: Each writing assignment will include an often lengthy prompt—with a clear due date. If you turn in a writing assignment within twenty-four hours after the due date, I will accept it with a letter-grade penalty. After twenty-four hours, I will not accept any assignment.

Replacement essay: You have the opportunity of replacing ONE essay writing assignment during the semester. (This assignment can be either an in-class writing or an out-of-class paper.) Replacing your grade will require the student to “revisit” the assignment and completely rewrite the paper. The original essay must be included so that I can tell that your replacement essay is NOT simply a revision.

Plagiarism: Under the heading of “Academic Dishonesty” in Midwestern State University’s *Student Handbook and Activities Calendar* is a definition of plagiarism: “The term ‘plagiarism’ includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.”

Any plagiarized assignment, including a submitted rough draft, will be assigned a grade of zero, and the student has no opportunity to replace that grade. In addition, I will then notify the departmental chair of the incident and sanction, as stipulated in MSU’s  *Student Handbook*.

Questions about your paper’s grade may be addressed, but only after the student has carefully noted the instructor’s comments. This calm, adult discussion will then take place at the earliest on the day following the paper’s return. Legally, you are all adults, and I will discuss your paper only with you, no parents, lawyers, or significant others.

Writing Proficiency Exam: All students seeking a Bachelor’s degree from Midwestern State University must satisfy a writing proficiency requirement once they’ve 1) passed English 1143 and 2) earned 60 hours.  You may meet this requirement by passing either the Writing Proficiency Exam or English 2113.  If you have any questions about the exam, visit the Writing Proficiency Office website at http://academics.mwsu.edu/wpr, or call 397-4131.

Students with disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, 397-4140.

Safe Zone Statement: The professor considers this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor’s expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

Finally, when emailing me, be sure to utilize standard written English. This is English class, and I expect you to work on your writing skills at all times. In other words, be diligent in avoiding text messaging lingo and other techniques that undermine correct writing.

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