



## Course Syllabus: Academic Research and Writing

ENGL 1143-208  
Spring 2021

### Contact Information

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### Course Description

- -- 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 the conventions of Standard American English for grammar and usage.
- --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/>.

### Textbook & Instructional Materials

*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. (You can find this out-of-print book on [abe.com](http://abe.com) for around \$5. Plus, I will provide links to the stories, so you really don't have to purchase the book. )

Any college rules handbook will likely suffice. However, if you find one published prior to 2016, you will need to look online for proper MLA guidelines. (On the syllabus, I will provide page numbers for *The Little Seagull Handbook*, but those are mainly for reference. You should be able to find similar content in any college rules book.)

### Student Handbook

Refer to: Student Handbook [https://msutexas.edu/student-life/\\_assets/files/handbook](https://msutexas.edu/student-life/_assets/files/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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Incidences of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment. Furthermore, I will follow university policy and report the violation. A second violation will result in the student being dropped from the class. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

### Grading

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%.

### Assignments

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 (10%)  
Final "in-class" essay (10%)

### Essay Drafts

While I do not require that you turn in rough drafts, I encourage you to do so. If you email me your draft, I will read it in a timely manner. Then I will offer you three or four suggestions as to how to improve the assignment. However, I will NOT mark and edit your draft. (I will comment on a maximum of two drafts.)

### Mid-term Grades

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, I will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should schedule a meeting with me.

### Late Work

I will accept an assignment for twenty-four hours after its being due—with a letter grade penalty. After twenty-four hours, I will not accept the late assignment.

### Tutoring Support

Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP) provides free drop-in tutoring for MSU students. Located on the first floor of Moffett Library, TASP's Learning center provides tutoring support in a number of core courses and subject areas. Please see our schedule for more information about times and offerings. *Remember that you don't need an appointment to utilize these services.*

Some departments also provide tutoring. Check the "Tutoring at MSU" tab in the portal for more information about all campus tutoring opportunities.

For Distance Education students, TASP has partnered with Thinkingstorm, an online tutoring company that provides you with high-quality, 24/7 tutoring support. Located at the top of your D2L course page, select the Distance Education Tutoring course to book an appointment with a tutor. If you are a distance education student (i.e. you live more than 50 miles from MSU and are in all online courses), but you do not see this course pop up under your courses, please contact [Ashley Hurst](#).

#### Research Paper Assignment

The research paper is the most important assignment of the semester. (It's also 25% of your semester grade.) We will complete this lengthy assignment over the course of several weeks, utilizing a step-by-step method. Each student must complete the incremental steps punctually. If a student falls significantly behind or does not complete the required steps in the research paper process, he or she then forfeits the opportunity to turn in a final draft.

#### Drop Date

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" **Oct. 25, 2021.**

#### 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.

#### Covid-19

We are obviously living in a turbulent time with each of our lives being disrupted by the global pandemic. And the possibility that the university suspends in-person class during the semester is real. However, this 1143 class is a wholly online, and your assignments are geared toward a weekly schedule. So, regardless of what happens with in-person classes this semester, our schedule **will not change**.

If you become ill during the semester, please let me know as quickly as possible. I certainly cannot excuse you from assignments, but if I understand the medical difficulties that you are experiencing, I will do my best to make accommodations.

#### 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 apply for 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 <http://www.mwsu.edu/student-life/disability>.

#### 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 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.

##### Writing Proficiency Requirement

All students seeking a Bachelor's degree from Midwestern State University must satisfy a writing proficiency requirement once they have 1) completed 6 hours of Communication Core and 2) earned 60 hours. Students may meet this requirement by passing the Writing Proficiency Exam, passing two Writing Intensive courses, or passing English 2113. If you have any questions about the exam, visit the [Writing Proficiency Office website](#) or call 397-4131.

##### Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

##### Notice

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

# Course Schedule

## Week 1 (Aug. 23-27):

Read and discuss Trimble's "How to Write a Critical Analysis" chapter.

Read and discuss character analysis essay on Sammy from "A&P."

Grammar and Style Review: Fragments, Comma Splices, and Fused Sentences:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 269-78.

Arguments:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 43-48

## Week 2 (Aug. 30-Sept. 3):

Read and discuss "Greasy Lake" on pages 56-65 of *30/30*.

Prompt for body paragraph will be posted.

Read and discuss Trimble's chapters "Thinking Well" and "Getting Launched"

Grammar and Style Review: Pronoun-Antecedent:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 339-42

## Week 3 (Sept. 7-10):

Read and discuss "Middles" in Trimble.

Read and discuss "What You Pawn I Will Redeem" on pages 12-31 in *30/30*.

Review and discuss "circled" Sammy paragraph.

Prompt for intro will be posted.

**Body paragraph on "Greasy Lake" is due. (5%)**

Grammar and Style Review: Paragraphs:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 17-28

## Week 4 (Sept. 13-17):

Read and discuss Trimble's "Openers."

Read and discuss Trimble's "Readability."

**Intro paragraph is due. (5%)**

Grammar and Style Review: Introductory Paragraphs:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 28-29

## Week 5 (Sept. 20-24):

Read and discuss Trimble's "Closers."

**First full essay is due. (10%)**

Grammar and Style Review: Concluding Paragraphs:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: page 29

## Week 6 (Sept. 27-Oct. 1):

Read and discuss "The Kind of Light That Shines on Texas" (pages 223-34 in *30/30*) and "The Things They Carried" (pages 249-65).

Read and discuss Trimble's "Diction."

Grammar and Style Review: Conciseness:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 368-69

Active/Passive Voice:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: 329-30

## Week 7 (Oct. 4-8):

Read and discuss "Fiesta, 1980" (pages 95-107 in *30/30*) and "Interpreter of Maladies" (pages 185-203).

Grammar and Style Review: Capitalization

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 409-11

## Week 8 (Oct. 11-15):

Read and discuss Trimble's "Superstitions."

**Empathy or Cultural Criticism essay is due. (10%)**

Grammar and Style Review: Research Strategy:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 90-102

## Week 9 (Oct. 18-22):

**“In-class” essay. (10%)**

Introduce research paper stories.

Grammar and Style Review: Evaluating Sources:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 102-07

## Week 10 (Oct. 25-29):

**October 25 is the last day to drop this class.**

Choose a short story from the list.

Once I have confirmed your choice, find a hard copy and read it.

Grammar and Style Review: Skim discussion and examples of Works Cited entries, as these are the forms you will use in your Working Bibliography:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 129-58

## Week 11 (Nov. 1-5):

**Working bibliography is due.**

**Thesis statement is due.**

Grammar and Style Review: Review formatting and sample MLA paper:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 158-69

## Week 12 (Nov. 8-12):

**Scratch outline is due.**

**In-class essay #2. (10%)**

## Week 13 (Nov. 15-19):

**Rough drafts without scholarship are due.**

Grammar and Style Review: Using Sources:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 107-17

Week 14 (Nov. 22-23):

Annotated bibliography is due. (5%)

Grammar and Style Review: Avoiding Plagiarism:

*Little Seagull Handbook*: pages 117-18

Week 15 (Nov. 29-Dec. 3):

Final research paper is due. (25%)

Final: (Dec. 4):

You will compose another extemporaneous, in-class essay. (10%)