

# Intro to Reading and Writing about Literature

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**Office Hours** T-Th: 8:30-9:30  
W: 9:00-12:00

## Course Goals

- Read various literary texts, including short fiction, poetry, and plays
- Apply knowledge of literary terms and analysis to interpret literary texts
- Engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, and revision
- Compose essays on the various literary genres
- Find, evaluate, and synthesize credible sources in support of a research paper
- Use sources ethically and in contextually appropriate ways and follow a designated style guide (MLA)
- Demonstrate proficient use of Standard Written English
- Realize that literature is an essential method of better understanding the human condition
- Additional information about course objectives can be found on the department webpage, <https://msutexas.edu/academics/libarts/english/index.php>.

## Required Textbooks

*The Norton Introduction to Literature*, edited by Kelly J. Mays, Shorter 14<sup>th</sup> edition

*Writing with Style*, by John Trimble, any edition

## Course Requirements

- 45% 3 Formal Essays
- 25% Literary Research Paper
- 10% Annotated Bibliography
- 10% Reading Quizzes and Class Participation
- 10% Final Exam

## Final Exam

The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7 at 8:00am.

## Grading Scale

For final grades, this class will not use the plus/minus grading system. The following numerical equivalents for final grades are used:

A = 100-90%

B = 89-80%

C = 79-70%

D = 69-60%

F = 59-0

## Midterm Grades

In order to help you keep track of your progress toward course objectives, I will provide a Midterm Progress Report through your WebWorld and Navigate account. I will submit a grade for all students, not just those in danger of failing the course. Midterm grades will not be reported on your transcript, nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give you an idea of where you stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C midterm average should make an appointment with me and consider visiting the Learning Center for tutoring services.

## Tutoring

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. Writing tutors are available Monday through Thursday and Sunday. Remember that you don't need an appointment to utilize these services. Check the [TASP webpage](#) for times.

## Dropping a Class

April 24, 2024 is the last day to drop a class with a “W.”

## 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 at <https://msutexas.edu/academics/wpr/> or call 397-4131.

## Submission Format and Policies

All writing assignments are to be typed and formatted—and outside sources documented in the research paper— according to MLA style. You will turn in a “hard copy” of all writing

assignments. In addition, you will need to upload, in a *Word* document, your essays to the D2L dropbox. This final step is so that I can check your essay for originality.

By enrolling in this class, you expressly grant MSU Texas a “limited right” in all intellectual property that you have created for this course. This “limited right” shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student’s work product in order to verify originality and authenticity and for educational purposes.

Note: You may not submit a paper for a grade in this class that already has been (or will be) submitted for a grade in another course, unless you obtain in advance the explicit written permission of me and the other instructor involved.

## Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end and a listing on the Works Cited page)—whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. All formal papers will run be evaluated by Turnitin for an originality report. At the very least, plagiarism will result in an F on the assignment; at worst, the consequence will be an F in the course. Offenders will be reported to the Chair of the Department of English, Humanities, and Philosophy and/or the Director of Student Conduct.

## Chat PGT and AI

Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Therefore, AI-generated submissions are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism.

## Quizzes and Late Assignment Policy

Daily quizzes and responses cannot be made up—these are in large part an incentive to attend class and a testament to your preparedness. Also, these will take place at the beginning of class. If you are late, you will not be allowed to take a reading quiz. In addition, essays will be accepted only 24 hours after the due date, and then with a one-letter grade penalty. After 24 hours, I will not accept any work. (Students will have adequate time for the preparation of essays; consequently, my expecting these essays to be completed punctually does not seem unreasonable.)

## Statement of Nondiscrimination

Midwestern State University is committed to providing equal access for qualified students with disabilities to all university courses and programs, and by law, all students with disabilities are guaranteed a learning environment that provides reasonable accommodation of their disabilities.

This guarantee is provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA reads: “No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be

denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subject to discrimination by any such entity.”

To obtain disability support services, students must be accepted for admission to Midwestern State University, complete a request for services form available through the Office of Disability Services, and provide current documentation from a qualified professional (such as a licensed physician, psychologist, audiologist, etc.) diagnosing the disability, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For information on Disability Services at Midwestern State University see the following: <http://students.mwsu.edu/disability/>

If I do not have proper notification the Office of Disability Services, I cannot and will not make special accommodations.

### Campus Carry Statement

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University’s webpage at <http://mwsu.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>.

## ENGL 1153 Schedule

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Please read the specified readings in advance and be prepared to discuss them on the dates listed below.

\*\* Schedule subject to revision as necessary \*\*

<b>Week</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Literature</b>	<b>Trimble, Norton Apparatus</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
<b>1</b>	1-16	Introduction		
	1-18	“A&P”	“Initiation Stories” (p.145)	
<b>2</b>	1-23		Trimble’s “How to Write a Critical Analysis” and “Sammy essay	
	1-25	“Greasy Lake”		

3	1-29	“Puppy” (p. 188)	“Narration and Point of View” (p. 77)	
	2-1		“Trimble’s “Thinking Well” and “Getting Launched”	
4	2-6	“The Story of an Hour” (p.582)	“Symbol and Figurative Language” (p. 361) Trimble’s “Middles”	Body paragraph is due in class and on D2L.
	2-8		Read Trimble’s “Openers” and “The Literary Essay” (p.1918-30.)	
5	2-13	“Shiloh” (p. 711)		Essay #1 is due in class and on D2L.
	2-15	“A Good Man is Hard to Find” (p.498)		
6	2-20	“Trifles” (p. 1253)		
	2-22		“Drama: Reading, Responding, Writing” (p. 1250 and p. 1264)	
7	2-27	<i>Fences</i> (p. 1288-Act I)		
	2-29	<i>Fences</i> (p. 1318—Act II)		
8	3-5		Trimble’s “Diction” and “Readability”	Essay #2 is due in class and on D2L.
	3-7		Trimble’s “Closers,” “Superstitions,” and “Proofreading”	
9	3-19	<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> (p.1925—Scenes 1-5)		
	3-21	<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> (p.1961—Scenes 6-11)		

		<b>Research Paper</b>		
<b>10</b>	3-25 3-27	Short story discussion. Holiday		
<b>11</b>	4-2  4-4	Choose a story. Walk to library. Read your story.  Working bib example		Essay #3 is due.
<b>12</b>	4-9  4-11	Thesis statement question  Scratch Outline discussion		Working bibliography is due.
<b>13</b>	4-16  4-18	Conferences. (No class)  Thanksgiving Holiday		
<b>14</b>	4-23  4-25	Annotated bib example and discussion  Example research paper.		Annotated bib is due in class and on D2L,
<b>15</b>	4-30  5-2	Plagiarism/Paraphrasing discussion  Final exam preparation		Research paper is due in class and on D2L.

**Final exam: Tuesday, May 7 @ 8:00 am.**

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