



Course Syllabus: Creative Inquiry: Interdisciplinary Thinking
MWSU 2003/4000 Section X10
Fall 2021
Hybrid Delivery Mode

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Stacia (Whitworth) Miller
Office: Bridwell Hall 323
Office hours: (In-person) Mon 4:00-5:00 pm, Tues/Thurs 10:00-11:00 am or
1:00-2:00 pm, and Fri by appointment
Office phone: (940) 397-2804
E-mail: stacia.miller@msutexas.edu

Class Meeting Information

Tuesday 2:00-3:20 pm with a hybrid (asynchronous) element in D2L
Dillard Building 175

Each course week begins on Tuesday and ends on Monday at 11:59 pm

Instructor Response

During the week, I will typically respond to your emails within 24-48 hours. Any emails received over the weekend will receive a response no later than Tuesday, 8 AM. Emails received on holidays typically will receive a response no later than 8 AM on the second business day after the holiday.

Required Course Materials

Leedy, P.D., & Ormrod, J. E. (2019). *Practical research: Planning and design* (12th ed.). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson. However, 10th and 11th editions are suitable.

Access to a personal computer with Microsoft Software, high speed Internet and the ability to access D2L, the MSU Online Learning System.

Recommended-Enriching and Fun Readings

Lehrer, Jonah. (2012). *Imagine: How Creativity Works*. Harcourt Publishing, New York, NY, 2012 [ISBN 978-0-547-38607-2].

Johnston, Steven. *How We Got to Now: Six Innovations That Made the Modern World*. New York: Riverhead Books, a member of Penguin Group (USA), 2014.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to inter- and cross-disciplinary research. It creates opportunities to inquire and to think out-of-the box. You will learn what research is and what is not, how to review the literature relevant to your research/creative activity project, to differentiate among various research types, and the approaches/methodology your fellow undergraduate researchers, who are in the EURECA program use to answer the questions proposed in their research projects. You will have the opportunity to share your research/creative activity with EURECA mentors and your fellow researchers.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- To identify what research is and what is not.
- To describe the essential components of the research process.
- To use databases to find relevant primary and secondary sources of information.
- Differentiate among the various research types and creative activities.
- Differentiate among the various methodologies used in research.
- To recognize and practice the conditions that lead to creative thinking and discovery
- To apply critical thinking, deductive and inductive reasoning to solve problems, answer questions and to create and discover.
- To conduct research ethically and recognize discipline-specific ethical issues.
- To write a research/creative work proposal to answer a question.

Course Delivery Method and Attendance Policy

This course is delivered via face-to-face at the university campus, and online through D2L. Course materials and access to an online management system will be made available to each student. 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.

Face-to-Face Instruction

Required Face-to-Face meetings will occur on Tuesdays from 2:00-3:20 pm. Students must engage in class activities during this time. To be prepared, students must complete the asynchronous online activities prior to attending class.

Asynchronous Online Instruction

Asynchronous online instruction occurs anytime before and after our face-to-face meeting on Tuesdays. Students watch lectures, read assigned materials, inspect websites, answer and write questions, discuss readings and engage in learning activities in a virtual environment prior to attending the face-to-face session.

Course materials are organized into weekly modules. Modules contain objectives to be accomplished, tasks to complete in order to accomplish the objectives, assessment activities and expected outcomes. Your success in this course depends on how well you engage in your own learning. Those in virtual only will be expected to submit weekly activities for engagement to the D2L dropbox.

Attendance is expected at all class meetings and you are expected to be on time when class begins. Leaving class early without prior permission will result in your being counted absent for the class session.

A tentative course schedule has been posted on D2L. All course content, assignments, and due dates have been outlined.

Students are expected to be on time and in attendance at every class, and to stay for the entire class. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from the course ([Student Handbook 2020-2021](#), p. 61).

An instructor may drop a student 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 student a verbal or written warning prior to dropping the student from the class. An instructor's drop of a student takes precedence over the student-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.

If you would like to receive notifications via a regularly checked email or via text message, you can set it up in D2L. Once you are logged in, go to the drop down by your name in the gold navigation bar. Click "notifications", then you can register an email address or mobile number and customize which notifications you would like to receive.

Assignment Overview and Grading Criteria

Due dates will be shared in D2L and in the schedule. Any assignment can be submitted before the due date. Late assignments will have a minimum automatic 25% point deduction for each day late. Do not wait until the last minute on any of your work!!

Grammar will be graded as a part of any course work. All work should be in your own words! Format – FOR ALL PAPERS: 12 point Times New Roman font, one (1) inch margins, and doubled spaced. The heading should have your names, the class and section number, and be right-justified on the page. The paper should be written in proper English and utilize APA 7th Edition citation style. Papers that do not follow this format will not be accepted or graded.

I will give feedback on assignments when appropriate, including, comments through “news items”, comments directly in the discussion board, and comments to the feedback box associated with each assignment submitted to dropbox. Please take the time to read these comments as I am taking the time to make them.

Grades for each assignment will be posted in the D2L course grade book.

Table 1: Weight allocated to each assignment

| Assignments | Weight |
|---|--------|
| Quizzes | 25% |
| Assignments | 25% |
| Class Engagement/Participation/Activities | 10% |
| <u>Non-EURECA students</u> : Research Proposal | 40% |
| <u>EURECA students</u> : Research Project/Creative Activity and presentation at the UGRCA forum | 40% |

Table 2: Range for final grade.

| Letter Grade | Range |
|--------------|--------------|
| A | 90 to 100 |
| B | 80 to 89 |
| C | 70 to 79 |
| D | 60 to 69 |
| F | Less than 60 |

Quizzes

Quizzes will assess your understanding of the material presented in the textbook chapters, readings, videos, mentor presentations, etc. and are scheduled after the completion of 3 to 4 modules. Quizzes will be administered on D2L. Each quiz is timed, thus make sure you take it at a time with no distractions. You will have two attempts to complete the quizzes. Your grade will be the average of the two attempts. Time begins when you tell the program to start the clock. The average of all quizzes weighs 25%.

Assignments

There will be 4 assignments throughout the semester that coincide with module topics and class activities. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments must be typed and submitted via the designated D2L Dropbox. More details will be shared within each assignment. The average of all assignments weighs 25%.

Class Engagement/Participation/Activities

During class you will be expected to participate in class lectures and activities (do not confuse attendance for engagement/participation).

Engagement/participation includes intelligent statements and sincere questions, and clear preparation for class. Prior to class, you will often have activities to complete so that you can effectively participate in class. These assignments are formative assessments to check students understanding of knowledge on each of the topics covered. Students are provided with different types of questions or tasks they are required to answer based on readings, in-class activities, and lectures. The average of all engagement/participation/activities weighs 10%.

Research/Creative Activity Proposal

Central to this course is to write a research/creative activity proposal. This applies only to non-EURECA students enrolled in MWSU 2003. EURECA students enrolled in MWSU 2003 or MWSU 4000 are working with faculty mentors on a research/creative activity project, and their grade will be based on the presentation of their project at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Forum (UGRCFAF) in November. In either case, this grade item weighs 40%.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2020-2021](#)

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](#).

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

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 for [Campus Carry](#).

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](#).

Instructor Class Policies

CITATION AND REFERENCE STYLE

Students will follow the APA Style Manual, 7th Edition as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation used in the APA Style Manual, 7th Edition.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

THREE THEN ME RULE

Before you email me, make sure to follow the "Three then Me" rule. The "Three then Me" rule says that you search for your answer regarding the course in at least three other places before you email me. For example, if you have a question about an assignment, you could consult your syllabus, the assignment description on D2L, or another student in the class. Remember, check three sources before you email me your question. It is very likely you'll find the answer and not need to email me. If you don't find the answer, and need clarification, feel free to email me.

Please note: By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a "limited right" in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The "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.

Plagiarism Statement

"By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a 'limited right' in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The 'limited right' shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality, authenticity, and educational purposes." [Student Handbook 2020-2021](#)

Dates and Activities Related to EURECA (required for EURECA students and recommended for nonEURECA students)

- Posters on the Go (PotG), October 6th, 2021- EURECA student researchers who are in this course engage in this activity every semester. You are invited to attend. EURECA students describe their research projects and discuss results in a simple format like that of an elevator speech in an informal set up. It will take place in the Clark Student Center.
- Preparing Effective Oral & Poster Presentations Workshop, TBD, October, 2021. More information will be shared as it gets closer.
- UGRCA Forum, November 18th, 2021- More information will be shared as it gets closer.
- Nuts & Bolts of Writing a EURECA Proposal Workshop, TBD, November, 2021. More information will be shared as it gets closer.

Note about COVID:

Scientific data shows that being fully vaccinated is the most effective way to prevent and slow the spread of COVE-19 and has the greatest probability of avoiding serious illness if infected in all age groups. Although MSU Texas is not mandating vaccinations in compliance with Governor Abbot's executive orders, we highly encourage eligible members of our community to get a vaccination. If you have questions or concerns about the vaccine, please contact your primary care physician or health care professional. Given the recent rise in cases, individuals are also strongly encouraged to wear facial coverings when indoors among groups of people, regardless of vaccination status. Although MSU Texas is not currently requiring facial coverings, they have been an effective strategy in slowing the spread.

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

Course Schedule

| Week | Date | Content Covered in Class | Activities/Assignment To Do |
|--------|---------------|---|---|
| Week 1 | Aug 24-30 | Online: Introductions and Week 1 Tasks In Class: Course Introduction and Overview | Introduction on Flipgrid Review Syllabus in D2L Join CUR (no cost) For Class: Read CUR White Paper and jot takeaways |
| Week 2 | Aug 31- Sep 6 | Module 1- The Nature and Tools of Research | See D2L for online activities For Class- Create a list of potential research/creative work resources and bring it to class. |
| Week 3 | Sep 7- 13 | Module 1- The Nature and Tools of Research | See D2L for online activities For Class- Complete the discussion prompts while watching the TED talk and bring answers to class. |
| Week 4 | Sep 14-20 | Module 2- The Problem: The Heart of the Research Process | See D2L for online activities For Class- Write down at least 3 research questions that you could potentially work with this semester and bring to class. |
| Week 5 | Sep 21- 27 | Module 2- The Problem: The Heart of the Research Process Assignment 1- Evaluating the Research Problem | See D2L for online activities Assignment 1- Due Sept 27 For Class- Be prepared to answer questions about primary, secondary and tertiary sources. |
| Week 6 | Sep 28- Oct 4 | Module 3: Review of the Related Literature Quiz 1 in D2L (Covers Modules 1 and 2) <i>Call for UGRCA Forum Abstracts</i> | Quiz 1 in D2L- Due Oct 4 For Class- find peer-reviewed research article in your discipline. Print and bring to class. |
| Week 7 | Oct 5- 11 | Module 3- Review of the Related Literature Assignment 2- Finding relevant literature <i>Posters on the Go</i> | See D2L for online activities Assignment 2- Due Oct 11 |

| Week | Date | Content | Activities/Assignment |
|---------|---------------|---|--|
| Week 8 | Oct 12- 18 | Module 4- Planning Your Research Project and Ethics | See D2L for online activities For Class- answer reflection questions for Dr. Resnik's article and bring to class. |
| Week 9 | Oct 19- 25 | Module 4- Planning Your Research Project and Ethics Assign 3- Ethics in Research and Creative Activities | See D2L for online activities Assignment 3- Due Oct. 25 |
| Week 10 | Oct 26- Nov 1 | Module 5- Writing the Research Proposal Quiz 2 in D2L (Covers Modules 3 and 4) Begin working on your Research Proposal (non-EURECA) | See D2L for online activities Quiz 2 in D2L- Due Nov 1 Research Prop- Due Dec 6th |
| Week 11 | Nov 2- 8 | Module 6- Research Design and Data Analyses | See D2L for online activities Research Prop- Due Dec 6th For class- obtain basic descriptive statistics from a data set and bring output |
| Week 12 | Nov 9- 15 | Module 6- Research Design and Data Analyses | See D2L for online activities Research Prop- Due Dec 6 th For class- be prepared with questions about the research proposal. |
| Week 13 | Nov 16- 22 | Working on Proposal Assign 4- Attend the UGRCAF <i>UGRCA Forum</i> | Assignment 4- Due Nov. 22 Research Prop- Due Dec 6th |
| Week 14 | Nov 23- 29 | Working on Proposal <i>No F2F Meeting</i> | Research Prop- Due Dec 6th |
| Week 15 | Nov 30- Dec 3 | Finishing Proposal <i>No F2F Meeting</i> | Research Prop- Due Dec 6th |