Introduction to Reading and Writing about Literature
ENGL 1153 Syllabus

Contact Information

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*Email is the best way to contact me. Please allow 24 hours for a response (48 hours on weekends).
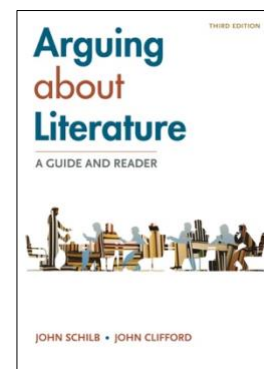
Course Description and Goals

This course will provide students an opportunity to develop critical reading and literary analysis skills in order to achieve deeper understanding of literary texts. Students will explore the various factors informing the production of written texts and learn how to conduct literary research in order to gain experience exploring different perspectives on select literary works and themes. The course will include several opportunities for students to articulate their interpretations and insights in essay assignments, which will be assessed for clarity, insight, and understanding. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- ✓ Read various literary texts united by a common theme or topic
- ✓ Apply knowledge of literary analysis to interpret literary texts
- ✓ Engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, and revision
- ✓ Write various genres of academic essays
- ✓ Find, evaluate, and synthesize credible sources in support of own research
- ✓ Use sources ethically, in contextually appropriate ways, following designated style guide
- ✓ Demonstrate proficient use of Standard Written English

Course Textbook

Schilb, John, and John Clifford. *Arguing About Literature: A Guide and Reader* (3rd Edition). Bedford/St. Martins, 2020. DIGITAL VERSION. ISBN: 9781319427689

D2L & Achieve

This course will make extensive use of:
- the MSU **D2L program**
- **Achieve**

Each student is expected to be familiar with the D2L program as it provides the primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information, as well as the primary way to complete and submit work. You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, contact IT.

You will be able to navigate to the Achieve platform at the beginning of the semester. This is where you will complete your reading and homework. Make sure you take some time to become familiar with the system right away.

Assignments

See below a list of assignments for this course. You will complete four in-class essays, an in-class research assignment, and a researched literary analysis essay. You will also partake in peer review and will have daily readings and homework to complete. The table also shows how much each assignment is worth.

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Readings and Homework	270
Regular Discussion Board Posts (8)	160
Short Essay 1	50
Short Essay 2	60
Short Essay 3	60
Short Essay 4 w/ Research	100
Peer Review	100
Researched Literary Analysis	200
Total	**1000**

Grading Policies

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%.

Midterm Grades

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, a Midterm Progress Report will be provided by the instructor through each student's

Navigate account. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcripts; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. Students earning below a C at the midway point should make an appointment with the instructor and consider visiting the TASP Center in the library.

Acceptable Submission Format and Process

All formal assignments are to be typed and formatted – and outside sources documented – according to MLA style guidelines. All formal papers will be uploaded to the student's personal Google Drive folder. By enrolling in this class, 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.

Late Assignment Policy

All assignments are due on the dates assigned. **No late work will be accepted** unless specific arrangements have been made prior to the due date. Students falling two assignments behind are subject to administrative withdrawal from the course.

Online Attendance Policy

Student "attendance" in online courses will be defined as active participation in the course as described in the individual course syllabus. This will include reading quizzes, submission of assignments, participation in discussion boards, and communication with the instructor.

Online Netiquette Policy

Students are expected to interact professionally and courteously; be prepared for the weekly lesson(s) and assignment(s); and read attentively, your peers and/or faculty postings. Appropriate conduct also means maintaining a safe learning environment based on mutual respect and civility.

Netiquette Guidelines

1. **Your Peers are Human:**
   When communicating online, remember there are real humans reading your words who deserve respect. Without the benefit of facial cues and other physical indications, your readers may not interpret your words as you intended. Before sending any communication, ask yourself if you would say the same thing if you were face-to-face.
2. **Apply the Same Ethical Standards as You Would for In-Person Communication:**
   Expectations for standards of behavior are no different in an online course. This includes following the copyright laws and University codes of conduct.

3. **Do Not Participate in Bullying or Inciting Arguments:**
   Express your passion for a topic without anger. It's okay to disagree with someone, but keep it respectful and avoid personal insults. Treat others as you wish to be treated.
4. **Respect the Privacy of Your Peers and Instructor:**
   Do not share your peer's personal information - respect their privacy. Sharing screenshots, video, or audio of your classmates without their permission is a violation of student privacy rights. Similarly, you should not share any of your classmate's classwork, group work, presentations or other educational materials without permission.
5. **Practice Kindness and Forgiveness:**
   Some students may ask questions which appear to be off topic or peers might make errors in spelling, etc. Be kind and do not draw attention to mistakes. If you feel your peer would benefit from your feedback, provide the information in private.

Repeated misconduct may result in receiving a grade penalty or being dismissed from the course.

Safe Zone Statement

This class is 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.**

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, (940) 397-4140.

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

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. All formal papers will run through *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. Please understand that students have the right to appeal an alleged incident of Academic Dishonesty. More information can be found on page 55 of the *Student Handbook*.

University Computer Labs

The University provides four open computer labs throughout the week, which feature access to Microsoft Office Suite. You can find these labs in:

Location	Hours
Clark Student Center	24 hours (Mon-Sun)
Dillard 146	Mon-Thurs 6:00 am – 7:00 pm
Moffett Library	Mon-Thurs 8am -10 pm; Fri. 8-5; Sat: 10-6; Sun: 2-10
Legacy Hall	24 hours (Mon-Sun)

Tutoring and Academic Support Programs

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. Remember that you don't need an appointment to utilize these services.

Writing Proficiency Requirement

All students seeking a Bachelor's degree from Midwestern State University must satisfy a writing proficiency requirement once they've 1) passed the 6 hours of Communication Core and 2) earned 60 hours. Students may meet this requirement in one of three ways: by passing the Writing Proficiency Exam, passing two Writing Intensive Courses (only one can be in the core), or passing English 2113. If you have any questions about the exam, visit Writing Proficiency Office or call 397-4131.