

**Introduction to Critical Reading and Academic Writing**  
**ENGL 1143 269 – Fall 2023**

**Midwestern State University**  
**Dual Credit with Founders Classical Academy of Flower Mound**

Instructor: Mrs. Amanda Dubek

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Office Hours: MWF 7:30-7:55 am or by appointment

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**Goals:**

- Apply key rhetorical concepts through analyzing and composing a variety of texts;
- Engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, collaboration, and revision;
- Use reading and composing for inquiry, learning, thinking, and communicating in various rhetorical contexts;
- Use strategies – such as interpretation, synthesis, response, critique, and design to compose texts that integrate the writer’s ideas with those from appropriate sources;
- Use sources ethically and in contextually appropriate ways and follow a designated style guide;
- Demonstrate proficient use of linguistic structures, including grammar and mechanics, through practice in composing and revising.

**Required Materials** You will be expected to bring the following items to class each day:

- A folder or three-ring binder, used to hold all handouts, readings, drafts, etc from this course;
- A college ruled notebook for class notes;
- College-ruled, loose-leaf notebook paper;
- A planner in which you will record assignments;
- At least two blue or black ink pens;
- A red pen;
- A highlighter.

**Course Assignments:**

20% - Classwork

- Peer Review Conferences – You will participate in review groups with your peers and instructor to edit work.
- Annotations, Logic/Grammar Reviews, etc.
- Timed Writing – You will respond to a text read in class and support your argument with evidence.

50% - Formal, Revised Essays

- Narrative Paper – You will use a personal narrative to present and support a position.
- Rhetorical Analysis – You will analyze the rhetorical elements of a selected text.
- Presentation – You will create a presentation to present your Synthesis Paper to the class.

20% - Synthesis Paper (1500-word min.) with an Annotated Bibliography

- Annotated Bibliography – Summarize and evaluate each source that you consult for the synthesis paper.
- Synthesis Paper – Explore the various perspectives on a topic of your choosing. You will be expected to cite sources and show connections between them.

10% - Final Exam Essay

- You will compose a multi-paragraph response to a text during the designated final exam time.

**Quality of Work:** All assignments (classwork, homework, assessments, and papers) must be written neatly and legibly. Ripped, torn, crumpled, or scribbled-on paper will not be accepted. Paper torn out of a spiral notebook is not acceptable.

Lined loose-leaf paper is required for all assignments unless specifically directed by the teacher. Homework must be completed in black or blue ink. Work done in other colors will not be accepted.

In addition, all written work reflect the fundamentals of correct English grammar and syntax. Any writing assignment demonstrating a failure to proofread or serious misunderstandings of grammar may be returned with a zero. Students may revise the assignment by the next school day for a 20% reduction in the earned grade. Examples of errors that may lead to such a rating include the following:

1. Basic spelling errors (e.g. misspelling “where,” confusing “there,” “their,” and “they’re,” or misspelling the author’s name);
2. Capitalization errors (e.g. not capitalizing the beginning of a sentence, “I,” proper names, titles of books, or your own name);
3. Sentence fragments
4. Comma splices or run-ons (i.e. independent clauses are joined together with either a semicolon or a coordinating conjunction and a comma).

**Late Work Policy:** Students are expected to complete and turn in assignments in good order and on time. Assignments that are one day late will receive 25% off of the final grade earned. Assignments that are two days late will receive an automatic zero. Major assignments worth larger grades will be penalized 20% for each day late and will only be accepted within the next two school days.

**Grading Policy:** This class will not use the plus/minus grading system for final grades. 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 through each student’s Skyward account will be provided by the instructor. 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 Tutoring & Academic Support Programs Center.

#### **Course Overview:**

N.B. All dates are subject to change. Any changes will be conveyed to students as soon as possible.

**Before MSU Semester Begins (August 9-25)** - What is Rhetoric? Selections from Plato’s *Gorgias* and Aristotle’s *The Art of Rhetoric*; Introduction to Formal and Informal Logic

**Week 1 (August 28-September 1)** - Ancient Rhetoric and Rhetorical Appeals; Rhetorical Analysis - Pericles

**Week 2 (September 4-8)** - Ancient Rhetoric and Narrative; Rhetorical Analysis – Cicero

#### **Narrative Writing Assignment Due**

**Week 3 (September 11-15)** - American Rhetoric and Revising - Thomas Paine

**Week 4 (September 18-22)** - American Rhetoric and Logical Appeals; Rhetorical Analysis - Patrick Henry

**Week 5 (September 25-29)** - American Rhetoric and Logical Appeals

**Week 6 (October 2-6)** - American Rhetoric and Analysis; Rhetorical Analysis - *Declaration of Independence* & Abraham Lincoln

### **Rhetorical Analysis Assignment Due**

**Week 7 (October 9-13)** - American Rhetoric and Analysis; Rhetorical Analysis - Frederick Douglass & Abraham Lincoln

**Week 8 (October 16-20)** - Five Canons of Rhetoric: Invention and Arrangement

**Week 9 (October 23-27)** – Research and Citations

**Week 10 (October 30-November 3)** - American Rhetoric and Revising

### **Writing Assignment: Synthesis Paper Due**

**Week 11 (November 6-10)** - 20th Century Rhetoric and Research; Rhetorical Analysis - Franklin D. Roosevelt & Winston Churchill

**Week 12 (November 13-17)** - 20th Century Rhetoric and Research; Rhetorical Analysis - Winston Churchill and Martin Luther King, Jr.

**FCA Thanksgiving Break – No School**

**Week 13 (November 27-December 1)** - Five Canons of Rhetoric: Style

**Week 14 (December 4-8)** – Five Canons of Rhetoric: Memory and Delivery

### **Presentations Due**

**MSU Finals Week (December 11-15)** - Final Exam

**Attendance Policy:** Ten (10) absences from class (excused or not) will result in an automatic F for the semester grade.

**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 through the 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.

**Email Policy:** I will respond to student emails in 1 to 2 business days. I may not respond to emails after 5 pm or on weekends.

**Submission Format and Policy:** All formal assignments are to be typed and formatted – and outside sources documented - according to MLA style. 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.

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 the explicit written permission of me and the other instructor involved in advance.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** 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

**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.

**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. Remember that students don’t need an appointment to utilize these services.

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 tutoring tab to book an appointment with a tutor.

**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 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.

**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 MSU Texas’s Campus Carry page.

## ENGL 1143 Synthesis Paper Rubric

Criterion	EXCELLENT	GOOD	SATISFACTORY	POOR	FAILING
<p><b><i>Context of and Purpose for Writing</i></b>  <i>(Communication Skills)</i>                      Does the essay demonstrate an understanding of the assignment's rhetorical concepts (purpose, audience, genre, context)?</p>					
<p><b><i>Content Development</i></b>  <i>(Critical Thinking Skills)</i>                      Does the essay present a critically considered topic?                      Does the essay develop a comprehensive synthesis of information?                      Does the essay present varying viewpoints?                      Does the essay provide a logical conclusion?</p>					
<p><b><i>Genre and Disciplinary Conventions</i></b>  <i>(Communication Skills)</i>                      Does the essay assert a position in a thesis statement placed at the end of the introduction?                      Does the essay provide body paragraphs that begin with a topic sentence, focus on one idea, and include several examples and details?                      Does the essay successfully execute stylistic choices?</p>					
<p><b><i>Sources and Evidence</i></b>  <i>(Personal Responsibility Skills)</i>                      Does the essay follow MLA guidelines for in-text citations and the Works Cited page?                      Does the essay use sources in ethical and contextually appropriate ways?</p>					
<p><b><i>Control of Syntax and Mechanics</i></b>  <i>(Communication Skills)</i>                      Does the essay use a variety of sentence types and precise language?                      Does the essay contain few grammatical or mechanical errors?</p>					
Additional comments on back of page					