



Course Syllabus: Introduction to Critical Reading & Academic Writing

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

ENGL 1143-113/155

TR 12:30

Fall 2024, August 27-December 5, 2024

Contact Information

Instructor: Becky Green

Office: BW 233

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday (MWF) 10:00-10:50; Tuesday and Thursday (TR) 9:00-9:20; 12:00-12:20; Zoom by e-mail request

Office phone: (940) 397-4426

E-mail: becky.green@msutexas.edu

When writing a message, follow conventions of standard written English. Do not text when "u" write a professor or instructor. Begin with a greeting (Ms. Green) and end with a signature (your name) followed by your class and course number (1143-113) even when using a cell phone.

What you cannot expect of me is to be available 24/7. I don't answer late night emails, and I'm offline on Saturday.

Course 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

Core Learning Objectives

This course fulfills a core requirement for Communication. As such, the course will assess the following learning objectives:

- Critical Thinking, Communication, & Personal Responsibility—To assess these skills, the Synthesis rubric will be applied to the Synthesis Essay.
- Teamwork—To assess the student's teamwork, the Peer Review Teamwork rubric will be used to assess each student's preparation for and participation in a peer review workshop.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

- Ingraham, Lauren and Jeanne Law Bohannon. *The Writer's Loop*. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2020. (eBook through *Achieve*)
- 3-ring binder, notebook paper, pencils/pens

TCAAP

This course's required eBook is part of MSU Texas' Courseware Access and Affordability Program (TCAAP). Students are charged for the course materials on their Business Office account. If you wish to opt-out of the Program and purchase the required course materials on your own, you must do so using the opt-out instructions, which will be sent to your my.msutexas.edu email on the second day of class. Contact the [MSU Bookstore](#) if you have questions about opting out.

Writing Assistance

Follow guidelines from [TASP Learning Center](#) to find the in-person and online help you need.

Student Handbook

Refer to the [Student Handbook](#).

Final Exam

This course has no final exam.

Extra Credit

The instructor does not accept extra credit assignments.

Late Work

You may submit a late paper or assignment at a penalty of 10 points. The late-submission period ends 48 hours after the deadline.

Grading

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 Letter grades have the following significance: A indicates excellent work, B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D indicates passing work, F indicates failing work. Consequently, an essay that

meets the basic requirements earns a C, not an A or B. If you wish to earn As and Bs, you will have to work hard to produce better than satisfactory, or average, writing. **IMPORTANT:** A grade of C or higher in ENGL 1143 is required for graduation from Midwestern State University.

Assignments	Percentage
Participation and Class Work	10
Position Paper	15
Proposal Paper	15
Annotated Bibliography	10
Synthesis Research Paper	25
Peer Review	10
Infographic	15
Total	100

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 29, 2024

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 25, 2024 (4:00 PM)

Refer to [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#).

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, the drop boxes for submitting papers, 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.

Due dates are your responsibility. If you have computer difficulty, send an email to your instructor immediately. Then follow the instructions on the D2L homepage for obtaining technical assistance. If the problem is with your personal laptop, MSU cannot work on it. However, the university has provided computer labs for your convenience:

Location	Hours
Clark Student Center	24 hours (Mon-Sun)
Dillard 146	Mon-Thurs 6:00 am – 7:00 pm
Moffett Library	Mon-Thurs 8:00 am – 10:00 pm; Fri. 8-5; Sat closed; Sun: 1:00 pm-10 pm (These hours are subject to change.)
Legacy Hall	24 hours (Mon-Sun)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty is cheating, collusion, and plagiarism. 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 in the text and a listing in "Works Cited")—whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. At the least, plagiarism will result in an F on an assignment. At the worst it will result in an F in the course. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the [Office of Student Conduct](#).

Use of AI (ChatGPT, Grammarly, etc.) is dangerous. It does not have the intelligence to understand the class prompts. It does not understand assignment scaffolding. It creates imaginary citations and does not have access to MSU's database. It can spell and create a sentence, but Turnitin sometimes flags its paragraphs. Therefore, AI generated work can result in an F as well.

Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. Attendance and participation is 10% of the grade average for this course. You are allowed 2 absences in this Tuesday-Thursday (TR) course. Thereafter, you lose 4 participation points each time you miss class. Throughout the semester you'll lose the same points each time you

- touch a cell phone or similar electronic device while in the classroom, (*Research proves that a cell phone within reach mentally removes its owner from the classroom.)
- sleep during class
- refuse to work with your tablemates
- miss 15 minutes of class time.

You earn participation points by

- attending a PYCHSS sponsored event (announced during class),
- meeting with the instructor for an extracurricular draft conference, and
- presenting proof to your instructor that you worked on a paper/essay with a writing tutor at TASP.

Your instructor will keep records on a daily basis. The instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences and participation. A student with excessive absences or low participation may be dropped from a course by the instructor.

Midterm Grades

In order to help you keep track of your progress toward course objectives, the instructor provides a Midterm Progress Report through Navigate. Midterm grades are not reported on the your transcript, nor are they calculated in your

cumulative GPA. They simply give you an idea of where you stand at the midpoint of the semester. If you are not doing satisfactory work at the midway point, you should make an appointment with your instructor and consider visiting TASP.

Submission Format and Policy

The assigned papers must follow MLA format style. A sample paper for each of these is included in the content of the course. The style preference includes the following:

- Header: writer's last name and page number
- Identification: writer's full name, instructor's name, course title-number-section, date
- Title: centered
- Spacing: Double-spaced throughout (extra space eliminated)
- Margins: One-inch margins on top, bottom, and sides of text
- Font: Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial; size 12

You should submit each paper in its corresponding D2L drop box by 11:59 PM on its due date. Submission is not through email.

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.

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.

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](#).

College 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.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage:

Grade Appeal Process

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

Course Schedule

The course schedule is a separate document.