



Course Syllabus: Academic Research and Writing
ENGL 1143 Section L10
Fall 2019

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Kristen Garrison
Office: 112 Hardin
Office hours: MW: 10am-1130am or by appt
Office phone: (940) 397-6305
E-mail: kristen.garrison@msutexas.edu

Course Description and Objectives

This course provides training in rhetoric, including skills involved in the writing process through composition and reading with the addition of particular skills needed for thoughtful research, from selection and analysis to integration and documentation of both print and electronic sources. Students will be required to prepare a research paper of moderate length demonstrating these skills. **A grade of C or better is required in this course.**

- Apply knowledge of rhetoric to analyze written communication
- Engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, and revision
- Write thesis-based academic arguments that provide strong support and specific details
- 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
- Demonstrate proficient use of Standard Written English
- Explore campus resources

Required Textbooks & Materials

Bullock, Richard, and Michael Brody. *The Little Seagull Handbook*. 3rd ed. W.W. Norton & Company, 2017. ISBN: 978-0-393-60263-0.
Miller-Cochran, Susan et. al. *An Insider's Guide to Academic Writing: A Rhetoric and Reader*. 2nd ed. Bedford/St. Martins, 2019. ISBN: 978-1-319-10399-6.
Notebook
Folder with brads and loose-leaf paper (Writing Portfolio)
3 Blue Books
Pens/pencils
2 highlighters (different colors)

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2018-19](https://msutexas.edu/student-life/conduct/_assets/files/student-handbook-2017-18.pdf) found at https://msutexas.edu/student-life/conduct/_assets/files/student-handbook-2017-18.pdf

Academic Integrity

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 in "Works Cited")—whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary.

For this course, plagiarism will be defined as any paper submitted that copies information from another source without any effort to acknowledge that source. We will spend lots of time in this class discussing responsible and appropriate methods for citing sources of information, and I expect you to adhere meticulously to these methods.

At the least, plagiarism will result in a 0 on the assignment; at worst, the consequence will be an automatic F for the course. I will follow the reporting procedures outlined in section F (Academic Dishonesty) of the Student Handbook. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Grading

For each essay, I will assign a letter grade, which may use a plus/minus. All letter grades will be converted to a numeric value based on the assignment's overall value. For the final grade, there will be no minus/plus. Borderline grades will be rounded to the higher number if the student has shown improvement and submitted ALL assignments.

According to MSU's Undergraduate Catalogue, "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" (73).

Consequently, essays that meet **the basic requirements** earn a C, not an A or B. If you wish to earn As and Bs, you will have to work harder to produce better than satisfactory, or average, writing.

A grade of C or higher in this course is required for graduation.

Table 1: Assignments and weight

Assignments	Points
Reading Log	100
In-class Essay 1	50
Formal Essay 1	50
Formal Essay 2	100
Formal Essay 3	100
Annotated Bibliography	100
In-class Essay 2	100
Researched Academic Argument	150
Peer Review Participation	100
Final Exam	150
TOTAL POINTS	1000

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	900
B	800 to 899
C	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than 600

Midterm Progress Reports

In order to help you keep track of your progress toward course objectives, I will provide a Midterm Progress Report during week 8 of the semester through your WebWorld account **if you are currently earning a D or F**. 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 at the midway point should schedule an appointment with me immediately.

Coursework

90% of your grade for this course will be based on various writing tasks; there are no quizzes or exams, with the exception of the Final Exam.

All essays and rough drafts must be submitted in the Writing Portfolio; I will not accept them otherwise. I encourage you to use Garamond font, as it requires ½ the amount of toner!

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 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*.

Final Exam

Your final exam is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 10 from 10:30am to 12:30pm, location TBD**. This will be an in-class writing on a prompt and topic we will discuss during the last week of class. It is worth 15% of your grade and will be evaluated according to a rubric you receive in advance.

You may not arrange to take your Final Exam early. If you are late to the Final Exam, you will be allowed to use whatever time remains to write your essay. If you miss your Final Exam, you will receive a 0; no make-up Final Exams will be scheduled.

Extra Credit

No extra credit will be available for this course.

Late Work

Assignments are due **at the start of class**. Late assignments will be accepted, but they earn a 10% deduction. If you miss class on a due date, the assignment must be emailed to me as an attachment by the start of our class meeting to avoid the late penalty. No assignments will be accepted 48 hours after the original deadline.

Make Up Work

You may make-up missed in-class essays 1 and 2 only if you notify me in advance of your absence and arrange the make-up essay within one week of the original date.

You may not make-up any other missed work, including peer review workshops.

Attendance

Students with more than three (3) unexcused absences will automatically earn an F for the course; if you accrue three absences, I will email you a warning that you’re in danger of earning an F. Once you’ve exceeded three absences, it’s your responsibility to drop the course. To excuse an absence, I must receive an email from you **in advance** that you will miss class.

Instructor Class Policies

Punctuality and Preparation:

Please bring your textbooks and other materials (pen/cil and paper) to every class meeting; if you are assigned homework, it needs to be done. Additionally, arrive a few minutes early so that you are ready to go when class begins; entering late shows a lack of regard for me and your peers. If you're repeatedly late, I'll give you a warning then begin marking you absent—once you earn three unexcused absences, you fail the course.

Cell Phones:

To help us focus, all cell phones must be silenced and put away at the start of class.

Effort:

Serious college students take advantage of the campus resources that help them succeed; the University Writing Center is one such resource. Although working with a tutor may have been a sign of weakness or inability in high school, working with a writing or course tutor in college signals the professor that you are serious about your studies; even more importantly, it provides the guidance you need from experienced and successful students.

Safe Zone:

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 your words and actions preserve the integrity of your peers, again, as fellow human beings. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students make a sincere effort to maintain our classroom as a safe and intellectually engaging environment. If I feel someone is undermining a productive and safe classroom, I will address the student immediately; if you feel that I violate this policy, please notify Dr. David Rankin, English department chair.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

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

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and 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.

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 Communication Core and 2) earned 60 hours. You may meet this requirement by passing either the Writing Proficiency Exam or English 2113. If you have any questions about the exam, visit the Writing Proficiency Office website at <http://academics.mwsu.edu/wpr>, or call 397-4131.

Grade Appeal Process

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

Notice

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

Course Schedule

You must bring both textbooks to class every day; failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence.

Week	Content and preparation	Due Dates
1 8/27-29	T: Intro R: Brainstorm for Diagnostic (ungraded) essay: In a thesis-drive essay, identify an issue that you feel demands immediate attention and explain why—who is impacted, how much, and why we should care.	T: R: Diagnostic Essay
2 9/3-5	Academic Disciplines and Rhetorical Awareness T: Read Ch. 1 & 3 <i>IGAW</i> R: Read Ch 4 <i>IGAW</i> (59-73 only) Discuss In-Class Essay 1	T: Reading Log #1: Outline Ch 1 & 3 and note most important details. R: Reading Log #2: Answer Discussion Questions on page 73.
3 9/10-12	Conducting ethical and effective research T: Create an outline for IC1 R: Read Chapter 5 (81-99 only)	T: IC1: Rhetorical Analysis R: Reading Log #3: Outline Ch 5 and note most important details.
4 9/17-19	Conducting ethical and effective research, continued T: Primary Sources R: Review MLA sections in both textbooks, and read Cherlin (342-347) and Saulney (364-367) in <i>IGAW</i> .	T: Constitution Day activity and discussion R: Reading Log #4: Summarize both essays and list the three most important direct quotes in each one. Review F1 assignment.
5 9/24-26	Adding primary and secondary sources to a draft T: Prepare F1 draft for workshop R: Revise and edit F1	T: F1 workshop: typed draft required R: F1 due Humanities and close reading
6 10/1-3	T: Read Ch. 8 (183-210) and Noussair et. al (540-557) R: Read Ch. 8 (211-226) and Seethaler & Linn (570-588)	T: RL #5: Identify at least 4 ways that the Noussair et al article reflects social science writing conventions (as outlined in Ch. 8). R: RL #6: How do both readings meet the three criteria for a Literature Review described on page 212? Review F2 assignment

7 10/8-10	T: Prepare F2 rough draft for workshop R: Revise and edit F2	T: F2 peer review workshop; typed draft required. R: F2 due (Lit Review) Writing in the Natural Sciences and Applied Sciences
8 10/15-17	Research project begins T: Brainstorm potential research topics and questions R: Brainstorm at least 3 primary and online sources for each of your three topics/questions	T: RL #7: Three issues and questions for further research Review research project in general; discuss F3 R: RL#8: Primary and online sources (9 total minimum) Using research databases Conference sign-up
9 10/22-24	Individual Conferences; no regular class meeting	F3 Due at conference
10 10/29-31	Work on Annotated Bibliography!!!	T: AB workshop; typed draft required R: AB due Brainstorming and planning for Position Essay (IC2)
11 11/5-7		T:TBD R: IC2 BW Lab
12 11/12-14	Individual conferences Monday through Wednesday T: no regular class meeting R: Work on Researched Academic Argument (developed from IC2)	Individual Conferences (most on M-W) discuss position essay R: Peer Review Team planning meeting
13 11/19-21	Work on Researched Academic Argument!!!	T: RAA Peer Review R: RAA Peer Review
14 11/26	T: Revise and edit RAA R: Eat, sleep, and give thanks	T: RAA DUE
15 12/3-5	Prepare for final exam, Tuesday, December 10, 1030-1230	T: RL #9: TBD R: RL#10: TBD