

## ENGL 1143 (1R7) Course Syllabus

Introduction to Critical Reading & Academic Writing | Spring 2022

MWF 10:00 – 10:50 AM | DB 329

### Contact Information

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### Course Description and Goals

This course provides training in **critical reading** and academic writing. It focuses on the **writing process** and **rhetorical concepts** while requiring students to **write a variety of texts**. Students will be required to prepare a synthesis paper of moderate length demonstrating critical reading and academic writing skills, including selection, evaluation, analysis, integration, and documentation of sources. By the end, students will be able to:

- 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.

### Contacting Your Instructor

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

### Textbook & Instructional Materials

*The Writer's Loop: A Guide to College Writing for Midwestern State University*. Ingraham, Lauren and Jeanne Law Bohannon. Bedford/St. Martins. 2020.

ENGL 1143 (1R7) is included in the Courseware Access & Affordability Program at MSU Texas.

What does this mean?

1. Your materials will be available the first day of class, for all students in your class. To access your materials, please log into D2L and navigate to your course.
2. The charges for this material have been posted to your student account at the Business Office. If you want to "opt out" of this program and the cost savings, you will receive the "opt out" instructions in your my.msutexas.edu email on the second day of class.

**Your last day to opt out is 09-6-22.**

3. The cost of your materials charged to your account is:

COSM Electronic Coursew \$45.63

\$3.76

Comparable pricing at bookst \$63.75

Publisher's web \$49.39 (Before tax)

4. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact the MSU Bookstore (940) 397-4303.

### Course Materials

Three (3) Blue Books, which can be purchased from the Library or Bookstore.

### 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, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact IT.

### Access to Microsoft 365

All students are able to download Microsoft Office 365 free of charge using their MSU Texas student email address. To acquire Office 365, please visit [GetOffice365](#).

### University Computer Labs

The University provides four open computer labs throughout the week. These four labs feature access to Microsoft Office Suite for writing and internet access for research. 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)

## Assignments & Grading Policies

In this course, we are going to use a **labor-based grading system**. Here is an [overview](#) of how the system works and why it is used.

In short, the labor-based grading system helps to focus on “how much *labor*, or effort, you do in this course... the more labor you do, the higher your final course grade will be, regardless of what anyone thinks of the products of that labor” (Inoue).

So, **how will this work?** The course has seven assignments. You will not receive a grade for these assignments. Instead, they will be marked on a Satisfactory(S)/Unsatisfactory(U) basis. If you meet the basic expectations laid out in the assignment, you'll earn full credit for it, but if you receive a “U,” you may revise with additional feedback or you will earn a portion of the points (.5, .7, or .8) available for that assignment.

If you do all seven assignments that are asked of you, in the manner and spirit asked, then you'll get a “C” course grade.

	Assignment Name	Points
1	TW 1 Position Paper	50 points
2	FE 1 Formal Position Paper	100 points
3	TW 2 Synthesis Proposal	75 points
4	Annotated Bibliography	75 points
5	Synthesis Paper	200 points
6	FE 2 Presentation	100 points
7	Final Exam	100 points
	<b>Total</b>	<b>700 points</b>

In order to receive a higher final grade, you can engage in any of the activities listed in the table on the next page. The more you do, fully and in the appropriate manner, the higher your contracted grade. There are a total of 300 points available.

In order to keep track of these activities, you will keep a **Labor Log**. You will write the type of activity, the date, and a brief description of what you did to complete the activity. I will ask for your Labor Log half way through the semester to check your tally and confirm your points. I will ask for you Labor Log once more at the end of the semester to confirm your final grade.

Information on what activities you can complete, how many points they are worth, and how to keep track of them in the Labor Log can be found in the following table.

By staying in this course and attending class, you accept this contract and agree to abide by it. I also agree to abide by the contract, and administer it fairly and equitably.

Type	Activity Description	Points	Goal	How to keep track in Labor Log
Meaningful Contributions	Engaging in meaningful participation in class (ex: provide an answer, comment, or discuss something related to that days' topic, raise an interesting question, engage your classmates in discussion, volunteer to read aloud or report group work, etc.)	2 points per contribution	At least once per week 1x/week = 30pts 2x/week = 60pts 3x/week = 90pts	Write up a description of your contribution
Revisions	Working on thoughtful revisions from draft to final on the position paper based on the feedback received	40	Once	Write up a reflection or plan of your revisions, a response to the feedback you received, and the overall experience of revising. Attach to your final draft.
	Working on thoughtful revisions from draft to final on the synthesis paper based on the feedback received	40	Once	
Tasks	Completing in-class activities given by the professor	3 points per task	20 activities available	Write down the name of the activity you completed.
Peer Review	Writing up a summary of peer-review thought process and experience	20 points	Once	Writing up a summary of peer-review thought process and experience.
Writing Conferences	Visiting the Tutoring Center at the Moffett Library	10 points per visit	Three times	Write up a summary of the writing center session, including the name of your tutor, what you worked on, and a picture of your work station
	Conferencing with your professor during office hours or a scheduled meeting	10 points per visit	Twice (does not include mandatory one)	Write up a summary of the conference, including what we discussed, and what your plan is moving forward.
<b>Total possible points: 300pts</b>				

## Example Labor Log

Date	Activity Name and Description	Points
9/18	<b>Meaningful Contribution</b> <i>I asked about the formatting of the position paper and took some notes to remember how to format properly.</i>	2
10/1	<b>Writing Conference</b> <i>I conferenced with Dr. M. at 1:30 pm. We discussed how to improve the organization of my ideas, especially how to go from more general statement to more specific statements for my paper on climate change.</i>	10
10/10	<b>Revisions</b> <i>Revision summary attached to FE 1</i>	40

## Final Grade 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 Tutoring & Academic Support Programs Center.

## 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 D2L Assignment folder and/or the Achieve Assignment 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.

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.

## Late Assignment Policy

Late assignments, defined as work not submitted by the designated date and time posted in the D2L Dropbox/Submission folder, will be accepted, but they will lose 10% of the points they

are worth for each day they are late for up to two late days. The third late day will lose the assignment 50% of its total point value. Additionally, **no late work will be accepted more than 72 hours after the original deadline**. If you are unable to come to class on the day an assignment is due, you should still upload it into the D2L Dropbox folder on time to avoid late paper deductions. Students falling two assignments behind are subject to administrative withdrawal from the course by the instructor. If you are having trouble completing an assignment, please come see me *before* it is too late.

### Attendance Policy

Although attendance is not graded, the labor-based grading system works on the assumption that you will put in labor and complete assignments and activities **fully and in the appropriate manner**. This is harder to accomplish if you miss class or arrive late, because you will miss out on discussions and explanations, and on feedback.

If you miss **ten (10) classes (whether the absence is excused or not)**, you will receive an **automatic F for the semester grade**.

If you need to miss several classes because of personal reasons, you should alert the Dean of Students office and provide them with the necessary documentation so that they can verify the situation for all of your instructors. **Student athletes** that have to miss class to attend sporting events must come see me at the beginning of the semester.

### 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 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. Please understand that students have the right to appeal an alleged incident of Academic Dishonesty. More information about this policy and appeal procedure can be found on page 55 of the Student Handbook [https://msutexas.edu/student-life/\\_assets/files/handbook.pdf](https://msutexas.edu/student-life/_assets/files/handbook.pdf)

### Appropriate Conduct & Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

Because we and our community members have diverse bodies, experiences, and needs, and because language helps shape our world, as a community, we must reject language and behaviors that denigrate others based on identity category. In this learning space, hate speech, harassment, discrimination, & violence are not tolerated.

We all make mistakes as we learn, so we should be willing to forgive and learn from these situations. However, 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. It is the professor's expectation that **all** students consider the classroom a safe environment.

### Language Assessment

You may expect to learn "proper grammar" in this class, but linguists argue that every language and dialect has a distinctive grammar and that no one grammar is inherently better or more correct. American universities rely on "Standard (American) Academic English" (SAE) to determine "college readiness," but this "standard" is a false one rooted in intentional gatekeeping and discrimination based on race, class, and citizenship status. In this class, **your professor will assume that SAE is a false and flawed standard.**

Your language practices are relevant. **You will not be chastised for using grammars other than SAE.** If you would like to learn to use SAE more persuasively, we can work on that through independent exercises for which you may earn extra credit, but you are also welcome to use your language experience in ways that you and your peers and community members would find persuasive and trustworthy; these goals are more practical and more inclusive than striving for an arbitrary and false notion of correctness.

### 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.

Beyond complying with the ADA, I want to ensure that this course is accessible as possible to all students. If you have problems accessing campus sites or learning materials (physical or digital), don't hesitate to talk with me about how we might improve that.

## **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. Writing tutors will not edit your papers for you, but they will provide support and feedback at every stage of the writing process, from brainstorming to drafting, revising to proofreading. Please consult their schedule for more information about times and offerings. 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 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

## Schedule

Note: Changes in the course syllabus or schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.  
 SC = A Student's Companion for the Writer's Loop; WL = The Writer's Loop

W	Date	Day	BEFORE CLASS	IN CLASS	Assignments due Sundays by 11 PM
1	8/22	M		Introduction	
	8/24	W		Introduction	
	8/26	F	SC: Ch. 2	Time Management	
2	8/29	M		Media Literacy	
	8/31	W		Media Literacy	
	9/2	F		In-class TW1	
3	9/5	M	Watch Documentary	Intro to FE 1	
	9/7	W	WL: Ch 2 & Ch. 3	Rhetoric	
	9/9	F	WL: Sections 5.3 & 5.4	Rhetoric	
4	9/12	M		Rhetoric Practice	
	9/14	W		Rhetoric Practice	
	9/16	F		Rhetoric Practice	
5	9/19	M		Position paper Issues	
	9/21	W		Position paper Issues	
	9/23	F		Work Day	<b>FE 1</b>
6	9/26	M		Intro to Synthesis Paper	
	9/28	W		Synthesis Practice	
	9/30	F		Topic Exploration	
7	10/3	M		In-class TW 2	
	10/5	W	WL: Section 8.2	Find & evaluate sources	
	10/7	F		TBA	
8	10/10	M		TBA	

W	Date	Day	BEFORE CLASS	IN CLASS	Assignments due Sundays by 11 PM	
	10/12	W	WL: Ch. 9	Annotate sources		
	10/14	F		Summarize sources		
9	10/17	M	WL: Sections A.1 & A.2	Format sources		
	10/19	W		Work Day		
	10/21	F		Work Day	<b>Annotated Bib.</b>	
10	10/24	M	WL: Section 11.3	Quoting		
	10/26	W	WL: Section 11.4	Paraphrasing		
	10/28	F	WL: Section 11.5	Summarizing		
11	10/31	M		Work Day		
	11/2	W		Work Day		
	11/4	F		Work Day		
12	11/7	M		Individual Conferences		
	11/9	W		Individual Conferences		
	11/11	F		Individual Conferences	<b>Synthesis Paper Draft</b>	
13	11/14	M		Peer review workshop		
	11/16	W		Peer review workshop		
	11/18	F		Intro to FE 3		
14	11/21	M		Presentation workshop		
	11/23	W	Thanksgiving Break – No class			
	11/25	F	Thanksgiving Break – No class			
15	11/28	M		Presentations		
	11/30	W		Presentations		
	12/2	F		Presentations	<b>Synthesis Paper Final</b>	
<b>Final Exam   Tuesday, Dec. 6   10:30am-12:30pm</b>						