

ENGL 1143: Intro To Critical Reading & Academic Writing

Spring 2024 | Midwestern State University | Dr. Coenen

Sec.	Days	Time	Place
207	T/R	9:30 - 10:50 AM	PY 205
208	T/R	11 AM - 12:20 PM	PY 205

Contact

Professor: Dr. Hillary Coenen | **Email:** hillary.coenen@msutexas.edu

Phone: 940-397-4058 | **Office:** BW 203

Office Hours: Mon & Wed 10:30 AM-Noon | Tues & Thurs 1-2 PM | By Appointment

Email is the best way to contact me.

Course Materials

Required Text:

- **EA** - Lunsford, Andrea, et al. *Everyone's an Author with Readings*, Norton, 2023. (Provided as an eBook via Inclusive Access in D2L).

Other Resources:

- Access to D2L/Brightspace and Norton eBook to receive info and submit assignments
 - Access to your MSUTexas gmail account to collaborate & access digital materials
 - Regular computer and internet access
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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
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Course Overview

This course will develop your skills in critical reading and thinking and in evidence-based, persuasive writing. These skills will be relevant in many aspects of your life. You'll choose what you research and write about, and you'll be asked to be open to new perspectives. We'll discuss media literacy this semester, and you'll practice critical and analytical thinking in two major assignment units. You'll create a portfolio that documents your writing process, which will include planning, drafting, exchanging feedback, and revising, and you'll have opportunities to improve drafts before and after submitting. You'll also earn course credit for informal tasks by recording them in a weekly journal.

You cannot afford to think of being here to receive an education: you will do much better to think of being here to claim one. One of the dictionary definitions of the verb 'to claim' is: to take as the rightful owner; to assert in the face of possible contradiction. 'To receive' is to come into possession of; to act as receptacle or container for; to accept as authoritative or true. The difference is that between acting and being acted-upon."

--Adrienne Rich

Grades & Policies

Major Tasks	Points	Description
Unit 1 Portfolio	250	Demonstrate your writing process on the analytical review essay by sharing the materials you used to plan, draft, and revise the essay, including a final draft, which will analyze a piece of media for its effectiveness.
Comprehensive Portfolio	500	Demonstrate your writing process on this three-part Synthesis unit by sharing the materials you used to plan, draft, and revise each component, including the final drafts: the Synthesis Matrix, Synthesis Essay, & Infographic, which investigate a problem and present research findings.
Final Exam - Position Essay	150	Compose a multi-paragraph essay that makes an argument regarding the grade you've earned in the course.
Weekly eJournal	100+	Throughout the semester, use your eJournal to document your writing process and log your ungraded work for the class in order to earn credit.
Total	X/1000	

Midterm Grades	Revision	Grade Scheme												
To help track your progress, I'll report Midterm Grades in WebWorld. Midterm grades do not appear on transcripts or affect GPAs. They reflect your standing mid- semester. Students earning a C or below should visit with me and TASP.	You may revise and resubmit any coursework within 2 weeks of receiving feedback and prior to finals week for additional feedback and a new assessment. Grade revisions are negotiated on a case-by-case basis, and all should be preceded by a revision plan with the help of the instructor.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Letter</th> <th>Numerical</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>895-100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>795-894</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>695-794</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td>595-694</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F</td> <td>0-594</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Letter	Numerical	A	895-100	B	795-894	C	695-794	D	595-694	F	0-594
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F	0-594													

Portfolio Grading System

This course uses a portfolio grading system, which is designed to emphasize the writing process, foster a collaborative, supportive environment, and relieve some writing anxiety. You'll get feedback from your instructor and classmates which you can use to improve your work, but you won't get traditional grades on individual assignments. Instead, they'll be marked as Complete/Incomplete in your portfolio, which will be assessed based on your drafting and revision process. For each stage of the portfolio, you will receive a checklist indicating the value and criteria for each component that should be included. If the assessment that you receive is not satisfactory, you may request the opportunity to revise ANY component to meet assignment expectations.

Use of AI or Writing Technologies

The use of AI is highly discouraged in this class. Turnitin does have an AI detector, but it is not 100% accurate, and thus leaves room for "reasonable doubt." Therefore, if you do use AI at any stage in the writing process, you must state in the reflection section of your submission how you used it (in detail). If an originality checker indicates that your response is more than 30% AI-generated, I will investigate further, and if your response and other evidence indicates that the work you submitted is not more than 70% original, you will not receive full credit for the assignment. **Note that there is no uniform policy on AI use at MSU. Make efforts to understand the policy for each course you are taking.**

Late Assignments

Deadlines are staggered in this class so that assignments build upon one another, which means that assignments should be completed according to the schedule to ensure your success. If you anticipate you may have difficulty meeting a deadline, request an extension at least 24 hours in advance. Late assignments, defined as work not submitted to the designated site within 2 hours of the deadline, may be accepted for credit if you consult with me within two business days of the deadline, at the discretion of the instructor. If you have difficulty submitting or are unsure if your submission was successful, email me with your work attached.

Course Practices & Policies

Attendance Policy

Punctual, engaged attendance is crucial to your success in this class and in college. More than two weeks' worth of unresolved absences (MW/TR: 4 classes) will be grounds for the instructor to drop you from the course. Any absences are likely to affect your performance in the course, and it's your responsibility to be present and prepared for class to maximize your learning. If you must miss class for any reason, you may resolve absences by communicating with your instructor. If you must miss multiple sessions for personal/health reasons, alert the Dean of Students office and provide information so they can verify for instructors.

Unresolved Absence: An absence about which you did not communicate to the instructor prior to or within two days of its occurrence.

Resolved Absence: To resolve your absence, communicate with me via email prior to or within two business days of the absence and explain what you will do to stay on track.

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism is the use of another's thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument (including text written by a generation system or artificial intelligence tool) 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. 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 the Dean of Students. 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

Contacting Me & GroupMe

All emails you send for academic purposes should be revised and edited, including a greeting, body paragraph(s), and closing, to meet professional expectations for emails. For courses, you should indicate your name and the course you're enrolled in. Allow 2 business days for a response to your email. You may also use our class GroupMe to ask questions and share resources among classmates.

D2L & Google Drive

We will use D2L to access most course materials including the syllabus, textbook, announcements, schedule updates, assignment sheets, slideshows, your feedback and grades, and other materials. You will also submit formal assignments and discussion board posts on D2L, so please check it daily, especially before our class meets. Google Drive will also be used as a collaborative space and to store class resources.

eBook Access

1143's required eBook is part of MSU Texas' Courseware Access and Affordability Program. 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 at jenny.denning@msutexas.edu if you have questions about opting out.

Campus Closure & Weather Policy

In cases of campus closures, the instructor will post a news item on D2L by 8 AM the day of the closure to indicate if a Zoom session will be available or if another make-up task or activity will be required.

Access to Microsoft 365

All students can download Microsoft Office 365 free of charge using their MSU Texas student email address. To acquire Office 365, visit <https://msutexas.edu/distance/student-resources.php>.

University Resources & Policies

Accessibility & Technology

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.

I want to ensure that this course is accessible to all students. If you have problems accessing campus sites or learning materials (physical or digital), talk with me about how we might improve that. I may refer to uses of technology that are not covered during class, but I will provide one-on-one or workshop-based support for students who are unfamiliar with said platforms.

Writing Center & Tutoring

Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP) provides free drop-in tutoring for MSU students. Located on the first floor of Moffett Library, writing tutors are available most weekdays. You don't need an appointment to use these services. 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. See <https://msutexas.edu/academics/tasp/on-campus.php> for more info.

University Computer Labs

The University provides four open computer labs that provide Microsoft Office and internet access.

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

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 MSU Texas's Campus Carry page (<https://msutexas.edu/campus-carry/>).

Course Community

Ensuring a Learning Environment

Characteristics	Students will...	Professor will...
<i>Communicative</i>	207	
<i>Accountable</i>		
<i>Respectful</i>		
<i>Engaged</i>		

Learning with Equity & Generosity

As a class community, we have diverse bodies, experiences, and needs. Our differences are strengths and something we should strive to learn from. To learn in a safe environment, we must ardently reject language and behaviors that denigrate others based on identity. In this learning space, hate speech, harassment, discrimination, & violence are not tolerated.

Committing to access and equity for all requires us to do more than reject discrimination. It begins with acknowledging how our institutions (academic and otherwise) have oppressed, excluded, and marginalized people based on race, religion, sexual orientation, sex and gender expression, immigration status, language background, ethnicity, ability, socioeconomic status, age, body type, and other aspects of identity. The work continues with seeking to understand and resist those failures by educating ourselves about oppression, fostering conversation and learning about those topics, developing practices that respond to the needs of historically marginalized communities, and holding our communities and leaders accountable for becoming more equitable and accessible.

This course encourages discussion and consideration of uncomfortable topics. We work through discomfort and create a brave space for learning and exploration by showing respect for others and consideration of different perspectives. There is a lot we don't know about each other, and our word choice in discussing social & political issues matters a great deal. Ignorance is not an excuse for cruelty or dismissiveness, but we all make mistakes as we learn, so we should be willing to forgive & learn from these situations.

On Language Assessment

You might expect to learn “proper grammar” in this class, but linguists argue that every language and dialect has a distinctive grammar and 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 in discussion. We will discuss clarity, conciseness, and common language expectations in various professional environments, and you will be given feedback based on those expectations; these goals are more practical and inclusive than striving for an arbitrary and false notion of correctness. Grammar police be warned. (See also [CCCC's 2020 Demand for Black Linguistic Justice](#).)

Weekly eJournal

The weekly ejournal enables you to earn course credit for the work that you do beyond what is graded and required. Each week, you should record the work you do related to the class & indicate what you learned from the activity or the progress you made. This will also be a space where you can collect in class writing and homework tasks. Word & Google Docs versions of the template are on D2L.
