

# ENGL 1153.X21: Introduction to Reading & Writing about Literature

Spring 2026 | B-Term  
Online

Contact:

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Lecturer

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Office Hours: by appointment only

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## Required Text:

1. Reading and Writing about Literature 6th edition by Janet Gardner & Joanne Diaz  
ISBN:9781319474072
2. *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien  
ISBN: 9780618706419

## Texas Core Curriculum:

This course will assess the following THECB Core Course Objectives:

- Critical Thinking Skills: creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- Communication Skills: effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- Teamwork: ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- Personal Responsibility: ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

## Course Goals:

- Read various literary texts united by a common theme or topic
- Apply knowledge of literary analysis to interpret literary texts
- Engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, and revision
- Write various genres of academic essays
- 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

## Course Assignments:

You will receive detailed assignment sheets that explain the specifics for each of these assignments.

Assignment	% of Final Grade
Response Papers	15%
Literary Analysis Essay	15%
Comparative Essay	15%
Literary Research & Ann. Bib	25%
Remix Project	10%
Reading Quizzes	5%
Discussion Boards	15%

### Response Papers

Short papers (1 to 2 pages) that respond to a prompt directly related to a reading

### Literary Analysis Essay

Writing Project 1 (WP#1): Longer paper (3 pages) that analyzes an element of fiction from a short story.

### Comparative Essay

Writing Project 2 (WP#2): Longer paper (3 pages) that compares at least two poems.

### Literary Research Paper & Annotated Bibliography

Writing Project 3 (WP#3): Longest paper (5 pages) that explores a research topic connected to a literary reading. Annotated bibliography will summarize and evaluate sources used in the literary research paper.

### Reading Quizzes

Completion of multiple-choice reading quizzes (RQ) housed in D2L due Sunday @11:59pm.

### Remix Project

Writing Project 4 (WP#4): You will present your research paper to the class using multimodal text.

## Discussion Boards

Participation in regular discussion boards about varying topics including: readings, topic brainstorm, & peer reviews. For each discussion board, your initial post should be posted by Tuesday @11:59 pm and your response should be posted by Thursday @11:59 pm. Week 1's Discussion Board is slightly different due to the holiday break. Due dates in Schedule!

## Grading Policy:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 0-59%

## Midterm Grades:

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, a Midterm Progress Report through each student's Navigate account will be provided by the instructor. Midterm Grades will not be reported on the student's 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 (TASP).

## Submission Format & Policy:

All written assignments are to be typed and formatted according to MLA style. All papers will be uploaded into the D2L Dropbox 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. Please note that the D2L Dropbox folder will automatically run the paper through Turnitin.com. Turnitin provides both an Originality Report and an AI Report.

**\*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.

## 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 [Microsoft Office for MSU](#) and create an account.

## University Computer Labs:

MSU Provides 4 open computer labs throughout the week. These labs feature access to Microsoft Office Suite for writing and internet access for research.

These labs are:

Location	Hours
Clark Student Center	Mon- Fri TBD   Sat-Sun 10am-8pm
Dillard 146	Mon-Thurs 6am-7pm
Moffett Library	Mon-Thurs 8am-10pm   Fri 8am-5pm   Sat 10am-6pm   Sun 2-10 pm
Legacy hall	Open 24hrs Mon- Sun

## Late Assignment Policy:

All assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the date listed. Extensions can be requested by email within 36 hours of a due date. I understand that sometimes life happens. If an extension is not requested and granted, it is an automatic -10 points per day late. I will not grade assignments turned in more than a week late. It should be noted...I am not checking if you turned your assignments in in the middle of the night. If you've got it turned in before I check the next morning, you will not be penalized.

## Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty- committing or contributing to dishonest acts by those engaged in teaching, learning, research

Plagiarism- the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own

Since writing and analytical skills are part of the learning outcomes from this course, all assignments should be prepared by the students. Developing a foundation in these skills will be pivotal for success in other courses and future endeavors. **\*AI-generated submissions are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism.**

Those who are found to have committed academic dishonesty or plagiarism will receive a zero on the assignment. Offenses may also result in the student being reported to the Chair of the Department of English, Humanities, and Philosophy and/or the Director of Student Conduct.

## 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 an 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](#).

## Contacting Your Instructor:

The best way to contact me is through email. I check my email regularly, so you should get a response within 24 hours (during the week). If you don't hear back after 48 hours, email again (your email may have been lost in the busy inbox). I don't respond to emails over the weekend unless it is an emergency. If it is later than 6pm, assume I will not see it until the next day.

## Tutoring:

Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP) provides free drop-in tutoring for MSU students. Located on the first floor of Moffett Library, TASP Learning Center provides tutoring support in several core courses and subject areas. Follow guidelines from [TASP Learning Center](#) to find the in-person and online help you need.

## Moffett Library:

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

## 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 prohibit 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 as 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 the 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: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

## Schedule:

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

Week	Assignments	Due Dates
<b>1</b>  3/21-3/29	Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Syllabus &amp; Schedule</li> <li>Ch 1: Intro to Reading &amp; Writing about Literature</li> <li>“The Value of ReReading”, “Annotating”, &amp; “Note Taking” from <i>Ch 2: The Role of Good Reading</i></li> <li>Ch 3: The Writing Process</li> </ul> Do: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction Discussion Board (DB)</li> <li>Reading Quiz (RQ)</li> </ul>	DB: Initial post due Tues 3/24 @ 11:59pm Response due Thurs 3/26 @ 11:59pm  RQ due Sun 3/29 @ 11:59pm
<b>2</b>  3/30-4/5	Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“A Good Man is Hard to Find” by Flannery O’Connor (D2L)</li> <li>“Strong Horse Tea” by Alice Walker (D2L)</li> </ul> Do: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Response Paper #1 (RP)</li> </ul> Introduce: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WP#1</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Holiday Break: April 2nd-4th</b></p>	<b>RP due Wed 4/1 @ 11:59pm</b>  RQ due Mon 4/6 @ 11:59pm
<b>3</b>  4/6-4/12	Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 5: Writing About Stories</li> <li>“The Bath” by Raymond Carver (D2L)</li> <li>“A Small, Good Thing” by Raymond Carver (D2L)</li> <li>“Cathedral” by Raymond Carver</li> </ul> Do: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Response Paper #2</li> <li>Rough Draft of WP#1</li> <li>WP#1 Peer Review Discussion Board</li> <li>Raymond Carver Reading Quiz</li> <li>WP#1 Due</li> </ul> Introduce: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WP#2</li> </ul>	DB: Initial post due Tues 4/7 @ 11:59pm Response due Thurs 4/9 @ 11:59pm  <b>RP due Fri 4/10 @ 11:59pm</b>  RQ due Sun 4/12 @ 11:59pm  <b>WP #1 due Sun 4/12 @ 11:59pm</b>

Week	Assignments	Due Dates
<p><b>4</b></p> <p>4/13-4/19</p>	<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch 6: Writing About Poems</li> <li>• “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” by T.S. Eliot</li> <li>• “[2 little whos]” by e.e. cummings</li> <li>• “[dim/i/nu/tiv]” by e.e. Cummings</li> <li>• “Mad Girl’s Love Song” by Sylvia Plath</li> <li>• “Daddy” by Sylvia Plath</li> </ul> <p>Do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modernist Poets Discussion Board</li> <li>• Response Paper #3</li> <li>• Select poems for WP#2</li> <li>• WP#2 Peer Review Discussion Board</li> <li>• WP#2 Due</li> </ul>	<p>DB:</p> <p>Initial post due Tues 4/14 @ 11:59pm</p> <p>Response due Thurs 4/16 @ 11:59pm</p> <p><b>RP #3 due Fri 4/17 @ 11:59pm</b></p> <p><b>WP #2 due Sun 4/19 @ 11:59pm</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>4/20-4/26</p>	<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch 8: Writing a Literary Research Paper</li> <li>• Ch 9: Literary Criticism &amp; Literary Theory</li> <li>• *<i>The Things They Carried</i> (TTTC) by Tim O’Brien <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “The Things They Carried”</li> <li>○ “On the Rainy River”</li> <li>○ “How to Tell a True War Story”</li> <li>○ “Sweetheart of the Song Tra Bong”</li> <li>○ “Speaking of Courage”</li> <li>○ “In the Field”</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TTTC Reading Quiz</li> <li>• Chapters 8 &amp; 9 Discussion Board</li> <li>• Response Paper #4</li> <li>• Brainstorming WP#3 Discussion Board</li> </ul> <p>Introduce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WP#3</li> </ul> <p>*Note: TTTC chapters listed above are required reading. The chapters not listed are not required; however, I heavily encourage you to read the entire novel.</p>	<p>DB:</p> <p>Initial post due Tues 4/21 @ 11:59pm</p> <p>Response due Thurs 4/23 @ 11:59pm</p> <p><b>RP #4 due Fri 4/24 @ 11:59pm</b></p> <p>RQ due Sun 4/26</p>



Week	Assignments	Due Dates
<b>6</b>  4/27-5/3  <b>Last day to drop with “W” 4/29</b>	Do: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 9 Discussion Board</li> <li>Work on Annotated Bibliography</li> <li>WP#3 Rough Draft</li> <li>WP#3 Peer Review Discussion Board</li> <li>Annotated Bibliography due Sunday</li> </ul> Introduce: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remix Project</li> </ul>	DB:Initial post due Tues 4/28 @ 11:59pm Response due Thurs 5/7  <b>Ann Bib due Sun 5/3 @ 11:59pm</b>
<b>7</b>  5/4-5/10	Do: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WP#3 Due Sunday</li> <li>Remix Presentation Discussion Board</li> <li>Remix Project due Sunday</li> </ul>	<b>WP#3 due Sunday 5/10 @ 11:59pm</b>  <b>Remix Project due Sunday 5/10 @ 11:59pm</b>
<b>No Final Exam!!</b>		