

Professor: Dr. Melissa Nivens
Class Time: TR 9:30am
Location: PY 205
Office: BeaWood 220
Email: melissa.nivens@msutexas.edu
Office hours: MW 9:00am-12:00pm
TR 11:00-12:00pm

ENGL 1153.207: Intro to Reading and Writing about Literature

Syllabus

Texts:

- Gardner, Janet E. et al. *Literature: A Portable Anthology*. Bedford/St. Martins. 2021.

Required Materials:

- Note-taking materials
- Post-it notes or tabs
- D2L/Achieve Access
- Webcam/microphone (for Zoom meetings if necessary)

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
- Additional information about course objectives can be found on the department webpage, <https://msutexas.edu/academics/libarts/english/index.php>.

Course Requirements:

- 15% 4 Reflection Papers
- 15% Writing Project 1 Literary Analysis Essay
- 15% Writing Project 2 Compare and Contrast Essay
- 25% Writing Project 3 Literary Research Paper and Annotated Bibliography
- 10% 3 Peer Review Workshops/ 1 Instructor Conference
- 10% Achieve Reading Quizzes
- 10% Final Exam

Final Exam:

- The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, May 3 at 8:00am. PY 205

Grading Policy: For final grades, this class will not use the plus/minus grading system. 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 you keep track of your progress toward course objectives, I will provide a Midterm Progress Report through your WebWorld and Navigate account. I will submit a grade for all students, not just those in danger of failing the course. 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 make an appointment with me and consider visiting the Learning Center for tutoring services.

Submission Format and Policy: All formal assignments are to be typed and formatted – and outside sources documented - according to MLA style. All formal papers will be uploaded into the D2L Dropbox folder and/or Achieve.

By enrolling in this class, you expressly grant MSU a “limited right” in all intellectual property created by you 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 date and time posted in D2L, will be accepted, but they will lose 10% of the final grade. Additionally, no late work will be accepted more than 48 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.

Academic Dishonesty: 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 on the Works Cited page)—whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. All formal papers will run through 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 and/or the Director of Student Conduct.

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

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.

Contacting Your Instructor: Email is the best way to contact me. Please note that I will not always reply immediately over the weekend or in the evenings.

Attendance Policy: It is important that you attend class and arrive on time. If you have a total of more than three weeks' worth (TR 6 classes) of absences (excused or not) the missed instruction will make it difficult for you to excel in the class. Students who miss class will not be directly penalized, but they will miss out on opportunities for participation and explanations of assignments that could impact the final grade. If you need to miss several classes because of personal reasons or illness, 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. Please see the [MSU COVID Update webpage](#) for more information should you begin to experience COVID-19 symptoms.

Tutoring: 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 are available Monday through Thursday and Sunday. Remember that you don't need an appointment to utilize these services. Check the [TASP webpage](#) for times.

For Distance Education students, TASP has partnered with Thinkingstorm, an online tutoring company that provides you with high-quality, 24/7 tutoring support. Located at the top of your D2L course page, select the tutoring tab to book an appointment with a tutor.

Writing Proficiency Requirement: All students seeking a Bachelor's degree from Midwestern State University must satisfy a writing proficiency requirement once they have 1) completed 6 hours of Communication Core and 2) earned 60 hours. Students may meet this requirement by passing the Writing Proficiency Exam, passing two Writing Intensive Courses, 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](#).

Daily Schedule of Readings and Assignments: See Table 1.**Table 1. Class Schedule**

Please note that the schedule is subject to change at any time in the semester. Any changes will be discussed in class and posted in D2L.

All readings will come from *Literature: A Portable Anthology* unless otherwise indicated.

RP – Reflection Paper (1-4)

WP – Writing Project (1-3)

PRW – Peer Review Workshop

AQ – Reading quiz is due in Achieve on this day

Week	Dates	Do This BEFORE Class	Do This IN Class
Week 1	T 1/11		Review: Syllabus Introduction to the Course Discuss: Marriage and Family Theme – scene from <i>Little Women</i>
	R 1/13	Read: “My Name” p.471 “Everyday Use” p.438	Practice: Navigating Achieve Discuss: Name Activity Intro Reflection Paper 1
Week 2	T 1/18	Read: Ch 2 The Role of Good Reading D2L Submit: RP1	Guest Lecturer Discuss: Close and Active Reading Annotating Literature
	R 1/20	Review: Ch 2 Read: Ch 5 Writing about Stories	Guest Lecturer Discuss: Close and Active Reading Annotating Literature

Week 3	T 1/25	<p>Review: Questions for Active Reading Fiction p. 10</p> <p>Read: “Happy Endings” p.429 “Sweat” p.313 AQ</p>	<p>Discuss: Elements of Fiction Plot Character</p> <p>Introduce: Writing Project 1 – Literary Analysis</p>
	R 1/27	<p>Read: Ch3 The Writing Process “The Story of an Hour” p.180</p> <p>D2L Submit: RP2</p>	<p>Discuss: The Writing Process Developing an Argument Thesis Statements</p> <p>Point of View Symbolism</p>
Week 4	T 2/1	<p>Read: “The Yellow Wallpaper” p. 196 AQ</p> <p>Achieve Submit: WP1 Draft for PRW</p>	<p>Discuss: Support for thesis Setting Point of View</p> <p>PRW1 – bring laptop</p>
	R 2/3	<p>Read: “Bliss” p.302 AQ</p> <p>Review: Global Revision Checklist p. 37</p> <p>Achieve Submit: PRW Comments</p>	<p>Discuss: Revision and Editing Character Style</p>

Week 5	T 2/8	<p>D2L Submit: WP1</p> <p>Read: Ch 6 Writing about Poems</p> <p>Review: Questions for Active Reading Poetry p.14 Comparison and Contrast p. 65</p>	<p>Introduce: WP2 - Compare/Contrast</p> <p>Discuss: Elements of Poetry</p>
	R 2/10	<p>Read: "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love" p.567 "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd" p.568 "To the Virgins Make Much of Time" p.576 "To His Coy Mistress" p. 584</p> <p>AQ</p>	<p>Discuss: 17th c. love poems</p> <p>Speaker Imagery Theme</p> <p>Group activity</p>
Week 6	T 2/15	<p>Read: "My Papa's Waltz" p.670 "the mother" p. 685 (TW abortion) "Daddy" p. 711 "A Note on My Son's Face" p. 725 May 1937" p.729 "I Go Back to "Nani" p. 752 "Eating Alone" p.769</p> <p>D2L Submit: RP3</p>	<p>Discuss: Family poems</p> <p>Speaker Imagery Theme</p>

	R 2/17	Read: “homage to my hips” p.715 “Black Girl Magic” p. 799 “How to Triumph Like a Girl” p. 801 “Rape Joke” p. 812 (TW sexual assault)	Discuss: Girl Power poems Speaker Tone
Week 7	T 2/22	Achieve Submit: WP2 Draft for PRW	PRW 2 – bring laptop
	R 2/24	Achieve Submit: PRW Comments	Revision Workshop Mini conferences
Week 8	T 3/1	D2L Submit: WP2 - Compare Contrast Read: Ch 8 Writing a Literary Research Paper	Library Database Day
	R 3/3	Read: Ch 9 Literary Criticism and Theory	Introduce: WP3 Literary Research Paper Discuss: Literary Criticism and Theory
Week 9	T 3/8	Read: Ch 7 Writing about Plays Review: Questions for Active Reading Drama p.16 Read: Research Paper Sources	Read and Discuss: “Trifles”
	R 3/10	Read: Research Paper Sources D2L Submit: RP4	Read and Discuss: “Trifles”

SPRING BREAK NO CLASS 3/15 OR 3/17			
Week 10 LAST DAY TO DROP WITH A “W” 3/21 4PM	T 3/22	Read: Research Paper Sources	Ann Bib Writing Workshop
	R 3/24	Read: Read Research Paper Sources	Discuss: Paper outline
Week 11	T 3/29	D2L Submit: Annotated Bib	Instructor Conferences – meet in BW220
	R 3/31		Instructor Conferences – meet in BW220
Week 12	T 4/5	Read: “Mine” AQ	Discuss: Plot Point of View
	R 4/7		Writing Workshop
Week 13	T 4/12	Achieve Submit: WP3 Draft for PRW	PRW3 – bring laptop
	R 4/14	NO CLASS EASTER HOLIDAY	
Week 14	T 4/19		Revision Workshop
	R 4/21	D2L Submit: WP3 – Literary Research Paper	TBD – Students Choose Text?

Week 15	T 4/26	Read: Final Exam text TBD	Discuss: Exam text
	R 4/28	Review: Essay Exams p.68	Final Exam Prep
Final	TUESDAY, 5/3 8:00 - 10:00AM PY 205		