

# Intermediate Composition & Grammar

ENGL 2113-X32, Summer 2023

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Office: Bea Wood 211

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Office hours: Mon – Thur. 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. (Central). Other times by appointment.

## Syllabus

The primary objective of the course is to develop students' skills in clear and effective composition and standard usage of the English language. In English 2113, students compose, convincingly support, and polish persuasive, thesis-driven essays. The course can be used to satisfy the Writing Proficiency Requirement.

**Course goals:** Students will

write thesis-based essays that provide strong support and specific details

- engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, and revision
- demonstrate critical and creative thinking about a timely issue or debatable topic
- demonstrate proficient use of Standard Written English

**Prerequisites:** Completion of the Communication Core

**Recommended text:** *The Little, Brown Brief* (LBB), 6th edition with MLA update. You may purchase an older/cheaper edition, but you will need to make any needed adjustments to chapters referenced in syllabus and course content.

**Required technology:** A computer or laptop with access to both the internet and a webcam.

A Chromebook laptop cannot be used to take the final as it won't work with the Respondus Lockdown Browser.

## Assignments:

*Writing assignments* (50%): You have five writing assignments: a simple thesis and topic sentence assignment (W1); an assignment in which you submit two body paragraphs (W2); and three complete essays (W3, W4, W5).

*Quizzes* (10%): There are ten quizzes. Your final grammar exam will be based on the content of these quizzes and the exam will count heavily, so don't please don't take the quizzes lightly! The week's quizzes are open 5 a.m. on Monday until 11:30 p.m. on the following Sunday. Before taking a quiz, read the associated chapter in the LBB and review all the material posted in D2L under Content > Review Quiz Module # for the quiz topic.

**Quizzes must be taken during the week assigned (i.e., there are no make-up quizzes).** Each quiz is worth 1 point on your final grade. For example, if you make a 90 on a quiz, it will be worth .9 or if you make a 30, it will be worth .3. If you miss a quiz, you will lose that 1 point. **You may take the quizzes up to 4 times to improve your grade. Your highest attempt will be the recorded grade.** To view the results for each quiz, click the drop-down arrow next to an exam, and click Submission. In the window that opens, in the upper left, click the Attempt #.

**Final exams (40%):** The final exam consists of two parts: a grammar exam (20%) and a thesis-driven essay (20%). These will be scheduled for access within D2L the final week of class.

**Late assignment policy:** All assignments are due on the dates assigned. No late work will be accepted unless specific arrangements have been made prior to the due date. Students falling two assignments behind are subject to administrative withdrawal from the course by the instructor.

**Acceptable submission format and process:** All formal writing assignments submitted for grading must conform to the *Writing and Formatting Your Essay* and *Essay Grading Guidelines* documents posted to D2L. Assignments are to be submitted to the Dropbox folders in the course D2L website.

**Table 1. Grading Scale**

Grade	Points Earned
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	< 60

**Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP):** [TASP](#) provides free on-campus and distance education tutoring for MSU students.

**Email format:** When sending emails to the instructor, please use the D2L email system. (Please do not send duplicate emails to the instructor's D2L account and msutexas email address.)

**Required contact:** Students are required to interact with the instructor within the D2L course management system at regular intervals during the semester or term. By completing your weekly quiz on time and submitting assignments on time, you will meet this requirement. Any student who fails to interact with an instructor via submissions to D2L, email, or in person during any one-week period of the term may be subject to administrative withdrawal from the course by the instructor.

**Academic dishonesty:** Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). All students are expected to adhere to the Midwestern State University Student Honor Creed when completing any work for this course: See the *MSU Student Handbook* (attached to D2L course web site) and read "Student Honor Creed" and "Academic Dishonesty Policy & Procedures," which outlines steps students would need to take to appeal an imposed academic sanction related to academic dishonesty.

- All work submitted to D2L will be scanned by the Turnitin® program, which flags text that has been quoted from other sources and/or generated by AI tools such as ChatGPT.
- AI/ChatGPT: Students may **not** incorporate any part of an AI generated response or content in an assignment submitted in this writing composition course (i.e., don't use ChatGPT or other AI composition software). Doing so will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. If this happens twice, you will receive a grade of "F" for the course.

- When using the ideas of other published and unpublished sources, students must use accepted documentation conventions (i.e., MLA or APA). If you submit an assignment in which quoted content is not placed in "quotation marks" and/or you have not cited the correct source, you will receive a grade of zero for that assignment. If this occurs twice in the course, you will receive a grade of "F" for the course. There are no exceptions to this policy. Stating, "I meant to put the text in quotation marks but forgot to do so," "I cited a source but forgot the quotation marks," or "I cited the wrong source" won't change the outcome: Please don't allow plagiarism to negatively impact your grade.

**Professionalism:** Members of this class are expected to treat one another with courtesy, professionalism, and respect. Repeated unprofessional, rude, or inappropriate behavior can result in 50-100 points being deducted from a student's final grade for the course per instance of such behavior.

**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

**Table 1. Weekly Assignment Schedule**

Week	Readings and Assignments
Week One Mon. June 5 Sun. June 11	Read in D2L: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Syllabus &amp; Assignment schedule (this document)</li> <li>• <i>MSU Student Handbook</i>. Read the university plagiarism policies.</li> </ul> Read in D2L: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• W1, W2, W3 assignment descriptions (W1 is due on Wed. June 7, and W2 is due on Sun. June 11.)</li> <li>• The W1 template: this is the format you should follow for the W1 assignment.</li> <li>• Writing and Formatting Your Essay, which shows how to construct each part of a complete essay. (Your first complete essay will be the W3 assignment.)</li> <li>• Essay Grading Guidelines, which explains how assignments W2-W5 will be graded.</li> <li>• <i>MLA and APA Resources</i></li> </ul> Under Content, look over the Quiz modules and Grammar Practice Resources Review in the <i>Little Brown Brief</i> (LBB): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 1 Ch. 1-6 The Writing Process</li> <li>• Ch. 9 Academic Writing</li> <li>• Ch. 56 MLA Documentation and Format <u>or</u> Ch. 57 APA Documentation and Format depending on which style you decide</li> </ul>

Week	Readings and Assignments
	<p>to use to format your citations and references.</p> <p>To prepare for weekly grammar quizzes, review the modules in the D2L and the following chapters in LBB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 21 Parts of Speech</li> <li>• Ch. 22 The Sentence</li> <li>• Ch. 23 Phrases and Subordinate Clauses</li> <li>• Ch. 35 Sentence Fragments</li> <li>• Ch. 36 Comma Splices and Fused Sentences</li> </ul> <p><b>Complete:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Take grammar pretest</b> by Thurs. June 8, before 11:30 p.m. (Your score will not be included in your final grade.) On the D2L Menu, click Assessments &gt; Tests &gt; Pretest</li> <li>• <b>Quizzes 1-3</b> will open on Mon. June 5, at 5 a.m., and close on Sunday, June 11, at 11:30 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Quiz 1 Subject/Verb Identification</li> <li>○ Quiz 2 Phrases/Clauses/Fragments</li> <li>○ Quiz 3 Comma Splices and Fused Sentences</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>W1.</b> Thesis statement and 2 topic sentences. Upload to Dropbox by Wed. June 7, before 11:30 p.m.</li> <li>• <b>W2.</b> On same topic as W1, this assignment consists of thesis sentence, two body paragraphs, and reference page. Upload to Dropbox by Sun. June 11, before 11:30 p.m.</li> </ul>
<p>Week Two Mon. June 12 – Sun. June 18</p>	<p>Read in D2L:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technology Instructions for Taking the Final Exams</li> </ul> <p>Read in D2L:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Writing and Formatting Your Essay</i></li> <li>• <i>Essay Grading Guidelines</i> (Note the W3 criteria)</li> </ul> <p>Review in LBB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 5 Revising</li> <li>• Ch. 7 Paragraphs (especially introductions and conclusions)</li> <li>• Ch. 12 Writing Arguments</li> </ul> <p>To prepare for weekly grammar quizzes, review the modules in the D2L and the following chapters in LBB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 25 Verb Forms</li> <li>• Ch. 29 Agreement of Subject and Verb</li> <li>• Ch. 31 Agreement of Pronoun and Antecedent</li> <li>• Ch. 32 Reference of Pronoun and Antecedent</li> </ul>

Week	Readings and Assignments
	<p><b>Complete:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After reading the Technology Instructions for Taking the Final Exams. <b>Take the Final Proctored Exam Practice Test to check your Respondus browser and webcam by Thursday, June 15.</b></li> <li>• <b>Quizzes 4-6</b> will open on Monday, June 12, at 5 a.m., and close on Sunday, June 18, at 11:30 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Quiz 4 Subject/Verb Agreement</li> <li>○ Quiz 5 Pronoun Agreement</li> <li>○ Quiz 6 Pronoun Case</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>W3.</b> A complete essay which builds on assignments W1 and W2: consists of introductory paragraph, two body paragraphs, concluding paragraph, and reference page. Upload by Sunday, June 18, before 11:30 p.m.</li> </ul>
<p>Week Three Mon. June 19 – Sun. June 25</p>	<p>Read in D2L:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• W4 Essay Assignment Instructions</li> </ul> <p>Review in LBB:</p> <p>Under Section 6 Spelling and Mechanics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 43 Quotation Marks</li> <li>• Ch. 54 Avoiding Plagiarism</li> <li>• Ch. 52 Finding Sources</li> <li>• Ch. 53 Working with Sources</li> <li>• Ch. 56 MLA or Ch. 57 APA</li> </ul> <p>To prepare for weekly grammar quizzes, review the modules in the D2L and the following chapters in LBB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 39 The Comma</li> <li>• Ch. 40 The Semicolon</li> <li>• Ch. 41 The Colon</li> </ul> <p><b>Complete:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Quizzes 7-8</b> will be open on Monday, June 19, at 5:00 a.m. and close on Sunday, June 25, at 11:30 p.m.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Quiz 7 Commas</li> <li>○ Quiz 8 Colons and Semicolons</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>W4 Essay Assignment:</b> a complete essay on the assigned new topic, including introductory paragraph, two body paragraphs, concluding paragraph, and reference page. Due Sunday, June 25, before 11:30 p.m.</li> </ul>
<p>Week Four Mon. June 26 to Sun. July 2</p>	<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• W5 Essay Assignment Instructions</li> <li>• Technology Instructions and dates/times for taking the final exams</li> <li>• Guide for Preparing and Studying for the Final Exams</li> </ul> <p>Read in LBB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 18 Appropriate and Exact Words</li> <li>• Ch. 20 Conciseness</li> </ul>

Week	Readings and Assignments
	<p>To prepare for weekly grammar quizzes, review the modules in the D2L under content, and read the following chapters in LBB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 16 Parallelism</li> <li>• Ch. 42 The Apostrophe</li> </ul> <p><b>Complete:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Quizzes 9-10</b> will be open on Monday June 26, at 5:00 a.m. and close on Sunday, July 2, at 11:30 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Quiz 9 Parallelism</li> <li>○ Quiz 10 Apostrophes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>W5 Essay Assignment:</b> a complete essay on the new topic, including introduction, body paragraphs, conclusion, and reference page. Due Sunday July 2, before 11:30 p.m.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 5 Week Five Mon. July 3 to Fri. July 7</p>	<p>Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback on your W5 assignment.</li> <li>• Technology instructions and dates/times for taking the final exams, and check your technology (web camera and lockdown browser)</li> <li>• Guide for Preparing and Studying for the Final Exams</li> <li>• Grammar modules and quizzes you have taken in preparation for the final grammar exam</li> </ul> <p><b>Complete:</b></p> <p>Final essay and grammar exams will open on <b>Wed. July 5 at 5:00 AM and close on Friday July 7 at 4:00 PM</b></p>