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Intermediate Composition & Grammar

ENGL 2113.X20 and X21

Syllabus

The primary objective of the course is to develop students' skills in planning and creating clear and effective composition and in using standard written American English. 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 American English

Prerequisites: Completion of the Communication Core

Required Texts: *The Little, Brown Brief* handbook (LBB), 6th edition with MLA update (ISBN 978-0-13-467943-3). If you use a different edition, you will need to make any needed adjustments to chapters and sections referenced in course content. If you plan to take the class without accessing the text, please recall that written assignments will be evaluated based, in part, on demonstration of skills taught by the text.

In addition, class members will need access to *The Best American Essays of the Century*, edited by Oates and Atwan (ISBN978-0-618-15587-3). Two of our class essays (four of our five writing assignments) will reference essays in this text.

Other Requirements: A computer with a camera and access to the Internet; software that allows members to save written assignments as Microsoft WORD documents. Documents submitted in other formats (for example, essays submitted as ".pages" documents or as pictures) will not be graded.

Assignments and Value (100 points total)

Ours is a points-based class. The total number of points scored will create the final grade. The D2L gradebook will not, thus, be accurate.

Sources of points are these:

1. Quizzes (10 points): We will take ten online quizzes. Before taking a quiz, read the associated chapter in the LBB and review all the material posted on the quiz topic in D2L. Quizzes must be taken during the week

assigned (i.e., no make-up quizzes can be allowed). If you take the quiz, you will receive a grade of "1 point," no matter your posted score on the quiz. Your final grammar exam will be based on these quizzes and will count heavily. The week's quizzes are open 5 a.m. on Monday until 11:30 p.m. on the following Sunday.

2. Writing assignments (50 points): You have five writing assignments: a simple thesis and topic sentence assignment (W1, worth 5 points); an assignment in which you submit two body paragraphs and a thesis (W2, worth 5 points); and three complete essays (W3, worth 10 points; W4, worth 15 points; W5, worth 15 points).

3. Final exam (40 points): The final exam will consist of two parts: a grammar exam to complete (20 points) and a thesis-driven essay to compose (20 points).

Acceptable submission format and process: All formal writing assignments submitted for grading must conform to the class files "Writing and Formatting ENGL 2113 Essays," "Using Sources," and "Using Sources Not in the Anthology" documents posted to D2L. Assignments are to be submitted to the Dropbox folders in the course D2L website.

Late Work

As a blanket policy, no late work will be accepted in this class. However, in extreme situations (for instance, hospitalization or other serious emergencies), I will consider documentation of the reason for your lateness. I reserve the right to make the final determination whether to accept any late work in emergency situations.

Grading for the Course

The final grade will be created by the quizzes, writing assignments, and two-part final exam. The writing assignments and essay portion of the final exam will be scored using a rubric. In the "Introduction to the Course" folder, you will find the ENGL 2113 "Grade Scoring Sheet." Filling out this form as we move along will help you keep track of your grade in the course.

Plagiarism

In this class, plagiarism will be defined as copying someone else's words and ideas without full attribution (proper source citation and quotation marks, as appropriate) and will not be accepted. Whether you paraphrase your source or quote from a text, you must include both a source citation and speaker tag (which the LBB considers to be a type of "signal phrase" (LBB 53e). Any work that contains improperly acknowledged outside material will receive a zero grade. Upon second offense, you will fail the course. Even one phrase of plagiarized text is grounds for a zero/failing grade for an essay. This policy is born of academic courtesy and legal responsibility and is, thus, not negotiable.

Grade Negotiation and E-mailing

While I am happy to talk with you about your work for the course and discuss how you can improve it, I will not engage in grade negotiation. Moreover, grade determinations will reflect the 2000-level offering of this course. I will consider your continued enrollment in the course to be an indication of your acceptance that I will grade your work with this standard. I am happy to respond to courteous emails in which you clearly state your questions, but I cannot provide editing.

When e-mailing for any reason, please recall that I cannot speak to grades over the open Internet. Any discussion of grades will be sent to you by D2L. Please send me e-mail by using your MSU Texas e-mail address and provide a clear subject line and an appropriate salutation: I prefer Mr. or Prof. Johnson. Offer your complete name at the bottom of the e-mail, along with your class and section numbers.

Table 1: Scale for Final Grades

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

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 D2L or e-mail during any one-week period of the term may be subject to administrative withdrawal from the course by the instructor.

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to adhere to the Midwestern State University Student Honor Creed when completing any work for this course. A student's name on any assignment scheduled to be turned in is a pledge that all work contained therein is that student's, alone. When using the ideas of unpublished and published secondary sources, students must use accepted documentation conventions (in our section, those of the MLA). See the *MSU Student Handbook* (attached to D2L course web site) to read the Student Honor Creed and the university's policy on academic dishonesty.

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 being removed from the class.

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 protections, 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.