

English 4001: Senior Capstone

Spring 2024

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Office Hours Tues/Thurs 10-11:00, 12:00-1:55. Wednesday 9:00-11:00 or by appointment

Course Description

A class that will meet for ten hours and include assignments that will help the English Department assess the quality of the undergraduate English program - curriculum, knowledge acquisition, teaching, and advising.

Learning Outcomes

ENGL 4001 Student Learning Outcomes:

1. **SLO 1:** Students will be able to identify key authors and works in the American literary tradition.
2. **SLO 2:** Students will be able to define and describe major periods of the American literary tradition.
3. **SLO 3:** Students will be able to apply a New Critical/Formalist analytical approach to reading and writing about literature.
4. **SLO 4:** Students will be able to use MLA accurately, appropriately, and responsibly to document sources.
5. **SLO 5:** Additional reflection on how you have grown as a writer, thinker, reader, or speaker.

Required Textbook

None. Readings will be on D2L.

Electronic Communication

I will be available by email Mon-Fri until 5PM CST. All emails sent after 5PM (CST) will be answered the next business day.

Attendance

Virtual for most weeks. I will ask that you show up to meet as a group for the info session. I will work on a time for all us.

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty will be punished with ***a failing grade for the course and be reported to Dean of Students***. [Seriously, get a C rather than an F for the semester. Do not risk your GPA.] Please consult the Undergraduate Handbook for Midwestern State University's policies concerning academic misconduct.

Assessed Activities

Resume/Curriculum Vitae

One draft and one final draft of your resume or academic curriculum vitae.

Two "in-class" essays

In-class Essay #1: Argumentative Essay

In-class Essay #2: Critical Analysis of Literature Essay

Portfolio

Please submit these via D2L as Word documents:

1. Three revised, formal essays for English courses that represent your best work.
 - a. One (1) **literary analysis demonstrating your use of MLA;**
 - b. One (1) creative work/essay
 - c. One (1) essay regarding composition, rhetoric, and/or linguistics
2. A **self-assessment essay** in which you reflect on how you have grown or developed in the following areas:
 - a. Ability to utilize MLA in your papers.
 - b. Define and describe major periods in literature.
 - c. Ability to apply analytical approaches to reading and writing about literature.
 - d. Growth as a reader, writer, thinker, or speaker.

If you are a writing major:

- e. Ability to utilize MLA in your papers.
 - f. Define and describe major rhetorical figures and ideas.
 - g. Ability to apply analytical approaches to rhetorical or pedagogical questions.
 - h. Growth as a reader, writer, thinker, or speaker.
3. A **program assessment essay** in which you reflect on the quality of:
 - a. **Advising** (for both coursework and career goals)
 - b. **Teaching** (within the English department)
 - c. **Curriculum/course offerings** (relevance and variety of courses offered)

Schedule

Friday, January 29th

Resume draft 1

Friday, February 5th

Resume final draft

Wednesday, February 11th

In-class #1: Argumentative Essay

Wednesday, March 4th

In-class #2: Critical Analysis Essay

Wednesday, March 27th

Knowledge Survey & Discussion

Friday, April 22nd

Portfolios Due

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Midwestern State University is committed to providing equal access for qualified students with disabilities to all university courses and programs, and by law, all students with disabilities are guaranteed a learning environment that provides reasonable accommodation of their disabilities.

This guarantee is provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA reads: "No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subject to discrimination by any such entity."

To obtain disability support services, students must:

- be accepted for admission to Midwestern State University,
- complete a request for services form available through the Office of Disability Services, and
- provide current documentation from a qualified professional (such as a licensed physician, psychologist, audiologist, etc.) diagnosing the disability, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For information on Disability Services at Midwestern State University see the following:

<http://students.mwsu.edu/disability/>

If the instructor does not have proper notification, he will expect the same performance from each student enrolled in the course.

Writing Center

Begin drafting papers as early as possible and take advantage of the MSU Writing Center, which will be online (<https://msutexas.edu/writing-center/>). 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.

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 <http://mwsu.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>.