

Instructor: Dr. Melissa Nivens

Class Time: TR 2:00-3:20pm

Location: BW 210

Office: BW220

Email: melissa.nivens@msutexas.edu

Office hours: MW 10:00-11:00am

TR 11:00-12:30pm

Afternoons by appointment

ENGL 4013.101: Introduction to Composition Studies

Syllabus

Texts:

- Wardle, Elizabeth and Doug Downs. *Writing about Writing 5th ed.* Macmillan, 2023. eBook with Achieve.

Required Materials:

- Journal
- Note-taking materials

Course Goals:

- Acquire a more sophisticated understanding of different theories of writing
- Demonstrate the ability to apply different theories of composing in order to make sound pedagogical decisions
- Reflect on the relationship between theory and practice
- Gain knowledge of writing as a skill across content areas
- Acquire a familiarity with the various discourses, professional journals, and online resources of the composition community

Course Assignments:

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

- 10% Class Discussion Presentation
- 10% WA1 Conceptions about Writing Assignment
- 15% WA2 Literacy Narrative Assignment

- 10% WA3 Rhetorical Analysis Assignment
- 20% WA4 Solutions to Writing Challenges Assignment
- 5% Annotated Bibliography
- 15% Book Review
- 10% Book Talk
- 5% Journal Entries/Participation

Grading Policy: This class will not use the plus/minus grading system for *final grades*. 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 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 students' 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 and Policy: All written assignments are to be typed and formatted – and outside sources documented - 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 <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/education/products/office?ms.officeurl=getoffice365?ms.officeurl=getoffice365> and create an account.

University Computer Labs: MSU provides four open computer labs throughout the week. These four labs feature access to Microsoft Office Suite for writing and internet access for research. You can find these labs in:

| Location | Hours |
|----------------------|--|
| Clark Student Center | Mon – Fri TBD Sat – Sun 10am – 8:00pm |
| Dillard 146 | Mon-Thurs 6:00 am – 7:00 pm |
| Moffett Library | Mon-Thurs 8:00 am – 10:00 pm; Fri. 8-5; Sat: 10am -6 pm; Sun: 2:00 pm-10 pm |
| Legacy Hall | 24 hours (Mon-Sun) |

Late Assignment Policy: Late assignments, defined as work not submitted by the designated date and time posted in the D2L Dropbox/Submission folder, 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.

Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for future courses and a competitive workplace.

Therefore, AI-generated submissions are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism.

As stated above, formal papers will run through the Turnitin for an Originality Report and an AI 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

Contacting Your Instructor: Email is the best way to contact me:

melissa.nivens@msutexas.edu

Attendance Policy: It is important that you attend class and arrive on time. If you have a total of more than two weeks' worth (4 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 (illness, death in the family, etc), 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.

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. Remember that students don't need an appointment to utilize these services.

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.

Alcohol & 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.

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

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 [Campus Carry page](#).

Active Shooter Procedure: 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.](#)"

1143 Daily Schedule of Readings and Assignments: See Table 1.

Table 1. Course Calendar

| Week | Dates | Do This BEFORE Class | Do This IN Class |
|---|-----------|---|---|
| <p>Week 1</p> <p>Writing is not just something people do, but something people study.</p> | T 8/27 | | <p>Review: Syllabus</p> <p>Introduce: Why study writing?</p> |
| | R 8/29 | <p>Read: Ch 1 Investigating Writing</p> | <p>Discuss: Writing Studies Threshold Concepts</p> <p>Introduce: (WA1) Conceptions about Writing Assignment</p> |
| <p>Week 2</p> <p>Writing is influenced by identities and experiences.</p> | T 9/3 | <p>Read: Ch 2 Readers, Writers, & Texts</p> | <p>Discuss: Genres Reading Rhetorically</p> <p>WA1 DUE</p> |
| | R 9/5 | <p>Read: Ch 5 Literacies "Sponsors of Literacy" Deborah Brandt "Learning to Read" Malcom X</p> | <p>Discuss: CDP#1 Brandt</p> <p>Introduce: (WA2) Literacy Narrative Assignment</p> |
| <p>Week 3</p> | T 9/10 | <p>Write: WA2 Literacy Narrative Draft Bring 2 copies to class</p> | <p>PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP</p> |
| | R 9/12 | <p>Read: "Should Writers Use They Own English?" Vershawn Ashanti Young</p> <p>"Pardon My Acento..." Kelly Medina-Lopez</p> | <p>Discuss: CDP#2 Young CDP#3 Medina-Lopez</p> |

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| Week 4 | T 9/17 | Read: “Multilingual Writing as Rhetorical Attunement” Rebecca Lorimer Leonard Excerpt from <i>Bootstraps</i> Victor Villanueva | Discuss: CDP#4 Leonard WA2 DUE |
| | R 9/19 | Read: “Responding – Really Responding to Other Students Writing” Richard Straub | Discuss: CDP#5 Straub |
| Week 5 Rhetorical choices shape worlds. | T 9/24 | Read: “Rhetoric: Making Sense of Human Interaction & Meaning Making” Doug Downs | Discuss: CDP#6 Downs Introduce: (WA3) Rhetorical Analysis Assignment |
| | R 9/26 | Read: “The Rhetorics of Online Autism Advocacy: a Case for Rhetorical Listening” Heilker & King | Discuss: CDP#7 WA3 Planning Workshop |
| Week 6 | T 10/1 | | Visit Feminist Philosophy Class – location TBD |
| | R 10/3 | Write: WA3 Rhetorical Analysis Draft Bring 2 copies to class | PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP |

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| <p>Week 7</p> <p>Writing is a process, and all writers have more to learn.</p> | <p>T 10/8</p> | <p>Read: "Shitty First Drafts" Anne Lamott</p> | <p>Discuss: CDP#8 Lamott</p> <p>WA3 DUE</p> |
| | <p>R 10/10</p> | <p>Read: "Rigid Rules, Inflexible Plans, and the Stifling of Language" Mike Rose</p> | <p>Discuss: CDP#10</p> <p>Introduce: WA4 Solutions to Writing Challenges Assignment & Annotate Bibliography</p> |
| <p>Week 8</p> | <p>T 10/15</p> | <p>Read: "Teaching the Conventions of Academic Discourse" Teresa Thonney</p> | <p>Discuss: CDP#10</p> |
| | <p>R 10/17</p> | <p>Read: "Revision Strategies of Student Writers and Experienced Adult Writers" Nancy Sommers</p> | <p>Discuss: CDP#11</p> <p>WA4 Planning Workshop</p> |
| <p>Week 9</p> | <p>T 10/22</p> | <p>Read: Sources for W4</p> | <p>Discuss: Annotated Bibliography Workshop</p> |
| | <p>R 10/24</p> | <p>Read: Sources for W4</p> | <p>Discuss: Annotated Bibliography Workshop</p> |
| <p>Week 10</p> | <p>T 10/29</p> | <p>Write: Ann Bib</p> | <p>Discuss: Mini Conferences</p> <p>AnnBib DUE</p> |
| | <p>R 10/31</p> | <p>Write: WA4 Rough Draft Bring 2 copies to class</p> | <p>PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP</p> |

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| Week 11 | T 11/5 | Write: W4 Final Draft | Share: W4 Papers |
| | R 11/7 | Choose: Academic Book | Introduce: Book Review |
| Week 12 | T 11/12 | Read: Book Review Book | TBD |
| | R 11/14 | Read: Book Review Book | TBD |
| Week 13 | T 11/19 | Read: Book Review Book | Discuss: Book Review Planning Workshop |
| | R 11/21 | Write: Book Review Rough Draft Bring 2 copies to class | PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP |
| Week 14 | T 11/26 | Write: Book Review | Discuss: Mini Conferences |
| | R 11/28 | THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NO CLASS | |
| Week 15 | T 12/3 | Complete: Slides | Book Talk 1-5 |
| | R 12/5 | Complete: Slides | Book Talk 6-11 |
| Week 16 | NO FINAL EXAM | | |

