

Professor: Dr. Melissa Nivens
Class Time: MW 2:30pm
Location: PY 205
Office: BeaWood 220
Email: melissa.nivens@msutexas.edu
Office hours: MW 10:00am-12:00; TR 1:00-2:00

ENGL 4013: Introduction to Composition Studies

Syllabus

Texts:

- Miller, Susan. ed. *The Norton Book of Composition Studies*. 2009.
- Tate, Gary et al. *A Guide to Composition Pedagogies*. 2nd ed. 2014.

Required Materials:

- Note-taking materials
- 1 Blue Book (final exam)

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

Course Requirements:

- 10% Class Discussion Presentation
- 10% Literacy Narrative
- 15% Reader Response Papers
- 15% Book Review
- 5% Annotated Bibliography
- 15% Lesson Plan Project
- 20% Research Paper
- 10% Final Exam

Final Exam:

- The final exam is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 8 at 5:45pm.**

Grading Policy: This class will not use the plus/minus grading system. In this class, the following numerical equivalents for final grades are used:

A = 100-90%;

B = 89-80%;

C = 79-70%;

D = 69-60%;

F = 59-0

Submission Format and Policy: All formal assignments are to be typed and formatted – and outside sources documented - according to MLA style. Additionally, all assignments should 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.

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 designated due date, 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 the 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.

Attendance Policy: It is important that you attend class and arrive on time. If you have a total of more than two weeks' worth (TR 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, 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 Texas Covid-19 Update](#) webpage for more information should you begin to experience COVID-19 symptoms.

Tutoring Services: Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP) provides free drop-in provides tutoring support in a number of core courses and subject areas. Remember that you don't need an appointment to utilize these services.

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, two Writing Intensive courses, or English 2113. If you have any questions about the exam, visit the [Writing Proficiency Office website](#) 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. Course Calendar**

Week	Date	Do This Before Class	Do This In Class
1 "Writing is not just something people do, but something people study."	M 8/23		Introductions Syllabus Are you a writer?
	W 8/25	Read: <i>NBCS</i> Parker, 3 D2L Threshold Concepts	Discuss readings Sample CDP Sign up for CDPs
2	M 8/30	Read: <i>NBCS</i> Douglas, 74 Fitzgerald, 171	CDP 1 & 2
	W 9/1	Read: D2L Brandt Lindquist & Halbritter	CDP 3 & 4 Introduce Literacy Narrative
3 "Writing is impacted by our prior experiences"	M 9/6	NO CLASS LABOR DAY	
	W 9/8	Read: <i>NBCS</i> Bartholomae, 605 D2L Cedillo & Bratta	CDP 5 & 6
4	M 9/13	Read: D2L Young Smith	CDP 7 & 8

	W 9/15	Write: Literacy Narrative Draft Bring 2 copies of draft to class	Peer Review Workshop
5“Writing helps people make meaning and get things done, but there are always constraints.”	M 9/20	Read: <i>NBCS</i> Villanueva, 991 D2L Kim	CDP 9 & 10
	W 9/22	Write: Literacy Final Draft Read: D2L Downs	Literacy Narrative DUE TODAY Understanding Rhetoric
6	M 9/27	Read: <i>NBCS</i> Bizzell, 479 Brodkey, 631	CDP 11 & 12 Introduce Book Review
	W 9/29	Read: <i>NBCS</i> Reynolds, 897 D2L Gries	CDP 13 & 14
7 “‘Good writing’ is dependent on writers, readers, situation, technology, and use.”	M 10/4	Read: <i>NBCS</i> Fulkerson, 430	CDP 15
	W 10/6	Read: <i>NBCS</i> Shaughnessy, 387	CDP 16
8	M 10/11	Read: <i>NBCS</i> Lundsford & Ede, 813 D2L Gold	CDP 17 & 18
	W 10/13	Read: <i>GCP</i> What is Composition Pedagogy Intro, 1	Discuss: Composition Pedagogy Book Review Workshop

9 “Writing is a process, all writers have more to learn, and writing is not perfectible.”	M 10/18	Read: <i>GCP</i> Expressive, 111 Write: Reader Response #1 (submit to D2L)	Discuss: Pedagogy Practices Introduce: Lesson Plan Project
	W 10/20	Read: Genre, 146 Review: D2L TEKS Common Core	Discuss: Pedagogy Practices TEKS/Common Core Activity STAAR Assessment
10 Last day to drop with W, 10/25	M 10/25	Read: Literature & Comp, 163	Book Review – DUE TODAY STAAR Assessment
	W 10/27	Read: <i>GCP</i> Feminist, 128 New Media, 177 Write: Reader Response #2	Discuss: Pedagogy Practices
11	M 11/1	Work on Presentations	Presentations 1-4 – DUE TODAY
	W 11/3	Work on Presentations	Presentations 5-9 – DUE TODAY
12	M 11/8	Read: <i>GCP</i> Second Language, 266 Writing in the Disciplines, 283 Write: Reader Response #3	Discuss: Pedagogy Practices Introduce Research Paper & Ann Bib

	W 11/10		Consider topics & sources Bring Laptop
13	M 11/15	Work on drafts	Ann Bib Workshop Bring Laptop
	W 11/17	Write: Outline	Mini instructor conferences – bring outline
14	M 11/22	Write: Ann Bib	Annotated Bib – DUE TODAY
	W 11/24	NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK	
15	M 11/29	Write: Rough Draft Bring two copies of draft to class	Peer Review Workshop
	W 12/1	Write: Final Draft	RESEARCH PAPER DUE Final Exam Review
16 Exam Week		FINAL EXAM Wed, 12/8, 5:45pm	