



Course Syllabus: Academic Research and Writing
Department of English, Humanities, and Philosophy
ENGL 1143-2R3
Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 1:00-1:50 PM
Spring 2020

Contact Information

- Instructor: Ms. Becky Green
- Office: BW 233
- Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2:00-3:00; Tuesday 12:00-3:00—No appointments are needed.
- Office phone: (940) 397-4426
- E-mail: becky.green@msutexas.edu

Course Goals

- Apply knowledge of rhetoric to make decisions about written communication
- Engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, and revision
- Write thesis-based academic arguments that provide strong support and specific details
- Find, evaluate, and synthesize credible sources in support of a research paper
- Use sources ethically and in contextually appropriate ways and follow a designated style guide
- Demonstrate proficient use of Standard Written English
- Additional information about course objectives can be found on the department webpage, <https://msutexas.edu/academics/libarts/english/index.php>.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

- Miller-Cochran, Susan et al. *An Insider's Guide to Academic Writing*. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2019.
- Supplies: 2-inch three-ring binder (1 binder will hold 1143 and 0043 materials), 5 labeled dividers (Syllabi, Notes/Handouts, Writing Resources, Papers/Blue Books, Research), notebook paper (not jagged-edged spiral paper), pens/pencils, highlighter, non-electronic dictionary, student email account or msutexas.edu WebWorld preferred account

Plagiarism Policy: Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s thoughts, words, ideas, or lines or argument in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end and a listing in “Works Cited”)—whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. It is a theft of intellectual property and will not be tolerated whether intentional or not. At the least, plagiarism will result in a 0 on the assignment; at worst, the consequence will be an automatic F for the course. I will follow the reporting procedure required by the Dean of Students. Refer to the [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Grading: Course Grade – Your grades in this course are based on this scale: A=100-90%; B=89-80%; C=79-70%; D=69-60%; F=59-0%. According to MSU’s Undergraduate Catalogue, “letter grades have the following significance: A indicates excellent work, B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D indicates passing work, F indicates failing work” (73). Consequently, an essay that meets the basic requirements earns a C, not an A or B. If you wish to earn As and Bs, you will have to work hard to produce better than satisfactory, or average, writing.

Table 1: Percentage allocated to each assignment

Assignments	% of Grade
Blue Book Essay #1	5
Blue Book Essay #2	5
Literary Narrative Paper	15
Rhetorical Analysis Paper	15
Source Summaries	10
Research Project	30
Presentation	10
Final Exam Blue Book	10
Total Percentage	100

Passing this course requires a final grade of C or better.

Homework:

Homework assignments are listed on the daily schedule along with their due dates. Homework is due at the beginning of class.

Submission Format and Policy: All writing assignments must follow MLA format. You may complete Blue Book essays in pen or pencil. Type all papers written out of class. Do not send assignments as email attachments. Submit all work during class time on the due date unless otherwise noted on the assignment sheet.

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 advanced.

By enrolling in this class, you expressly grant MSU a "limited right" in all intellectual property created by you for the purpose of this course. The "limited right" shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce your work product in order to verify originality and authenticity and for educational purposes.

Blue Book Essays and the Final Exam: The English Department will provide your blue books for this course. You will write three Blue Book Essays during class this semester. Blue Books #1 and #2 are each 5% of your total grade for the course. The Final Exam Blue Book is 10% of your grade. Each will be based on a reading assignment. You will have the duration of that day's classes (1143 and 0043) to write a position paper over a posed question. The date for each Blue Book assignment is listed on the class schedule.

Papers: You will write three major papers during the semester. The Literacy Narrative and Rhetorical Analysis are each worth 15% of your total grade. The Research Paper is worth 30%. You will also write a summary for each of your 4 research sources for a combined weight of 10%.

Presentation: You will be making a presentation in class. It is 10% of your grade. You will present at the end of the semester in a group.

Extra Credit: I do not give extra credit assignments.

Late Work:

The policy for submitting late work is as follows

- I will not collect late homework.
- A missed blue book essay must be written during my office hours. For example, if you are absent on Wednesday, March 11th, you will come to my office (BW 233) during my hours within one week to complete Blue Book #1. No appointment is necessary. Work not completed in this time frame receives a grade of zero. The Final Exam Blue Book may not be taken late.
- An assigned paper is due in class on its due date. I will reduce its grade by 10% for each weekday that it is late.

Attendance: Attendance in this class is mandatory. You're allowed 4 absences. That is more than a full week of class—too much to miss in college. The fifth absence earns an F in the course and the lost opportunity to continue attending class. Don't miss out on an education due to absences. In case of an emergency, such as your hospitalization or a family member's death, contact the [dean of students](mailto:student.affairs@msutexas.edu) at student.affairs@msutexas.edu or 940.397.7500.

Writing Center: Begin drafting papers as early as possible and take advantage of the MSU Writing Center, located off the 2nd floor atrium of Prothro-Yeager. Tutoring is available Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM; you can also find a tutor at the satellite location in the Clark Student Center Commuter Lounge, Sunday and Thursday from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. 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.

Instructor Class Policies

Be on time

- If you are repeatedly late to class, I will begin marking you absent.
- If extenuating circumstances prevent you from arriving on time, please let me know.

Practice courtesy

- When I am speaking to the class, do not walk in front of me. If you arrive late to class, wait outside the classroom until I invite you in. When another student is speaking, listen.
- Silence and put away all cell phones and other electronic devices; however, do bring phones to class.
- If you leave the classroom for any reason, you do not need my permission. Simply leave when I or a classmate is not speaking.
- Do not eat in the classroom. You may, however, drink from spill-proof containers.
- Disruptive behavior is grounds for being asked to leave the room and being counted absent.

Writing Proficiency Requirement: All students seeking a Bachelor's degree from Midwestern State University must satisfy a writing proficiency requirement once they have 1) passed the Communication Core and 2) earned 60 hours. You may meet this requirement by passing either the Writing Proficiency Exam or ENGL 2113. If you have any questions about the exam, visit the Writing Proficiency website at <http://academics.msutexas.edu/wpr> or call 397-4131.

Safe Zones Statement: I consider 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 my expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

Grade Appeal Process: Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

College Policies:

- Campus Carry Rules/Policies: Refer to [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)
- 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.
- Alcohol and 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.

Services for Students with Disabilities:

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Course Schedule: Notice: Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. See the attached calendar.