

Professor: Dr. Melissa Nivens
Class Time: TR 11:00am
Location: BW 210
Office: BeaWood 220
Email: melissa.nivens@msutexas.edu
Office hours: MW 9:00am-12:00pm
TR 9:00am-11:00am
Afternoons by appointment

ENGL 1143: Academic Research and Writing

Syllabus

Texts:

- Bullock, Richard et al. *The Little Seagull Handbook with Readings*. Norton, 2017.
- Miller-Cochran, Susan, Roy Stamper, & Stacey Cochran. *An Insider's Guide to Academic Writing: A Rhetoric and Reader 2nd ed.* Bedford/St. Martin's, 2019.

Required Materials:

- Folder with pockets
- Note-taking materials
- 3 blue books

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>.

Learning Community:

ENGL 1143 Academic Research and Writing is partnered in a Learning Community with HIST 1133 Survey of American History to 1865. Because you will be attending both classes with the same people, you will have an increased opportunity to make connections and friends with each other and help each other succeed, individually and as team members.

Theme:

Who gets to belong? And what does that belonging look like? Pairing American History and Academic Research & Writing allows students to consider how American notions of belonging have changed over time. In exploring topics such as the history of families to the founding of the United States, students will develop effective communication and analytical skills.

Course Requirements:

- 10% 3 Peer Review Workshops
- 10% 2 In-Class Essays (350-word min. each)
- 30% 2 Formal, Revised Essays (750-word min. each)
- 10% 1 Group Presentation
- 20% Researched Academic Argument (1500-word min.)
- 10% Grammar Exercises
- 10% Final Exam Essay

Final Exam:

- Tuesday, December 10 at 10:30am

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

Midterm Grades: In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, I will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. I will submit a grade for all students, not just those in danger of failing the course. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give you an idea of where you stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should make an appointment with me and consider visiting the Writing Center.

Submission Format and Policy: All formal assignments are to be typed and formatted – and outside sources documented - according to MLA style. Additionally, all formal papers must be printed and submitted in your folder and 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 start of class on 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 be on time. If you have more than six (6) absences excused or not, you will likely fail the class. When you miss class meetings, you miss out on the instruction for which you pay tuition. In the unfortunate event that you accrue six or more absences before the last day to withdraw, you have the responsibility of withdrawing from the class. Please don't feel you have to explain or justify absences to me; I respect your privacy, but you must accept the consequences. If you miss class, you miss any writing assignment or group work done during that period, and you miss any announcements regarding future assignments. Notify me in advance if you will not be able to make class; you may leave an email message. As stated above, if you miss class on a due date for an assignment, upload the assignment to the Dropbox or it will lose points. Consider it your responsibility to be here, prepared for class, or you will not do as well as you wish, nor gain as much as you could.

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 9am to 4pm. You can also find a tutor at the satellite location in Clark Student Center Commuter Lounge, Sunday and Thursday from 6pm to 9pm. 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.

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 either the Writing Proficiency Exam or English 2113. If you have any questions about the exam, visit the Writing Proficiency Office website at <https://msutexas.edu/academics/wpr/>, 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	T 8/27		Introductions Syllabus Diagnostic writing sample
	R 8/29	Read: AW Ch 1 Inside Colleges and Universities & Ch 2 Writing Process	Discuss: Academic disciplines Writing process Introduce: ICE#1 Literacy Narrative
2	T 9/3	Write: ICE#1 Plans	ICE#1 Literacy Narrative
	R 9/5	Read: AW Ch 3 Reading & Writing Rhetorically	Discuss: Rhetorical context (audience, genre, topic, purpose)
3	T 9/10	Read: AW Ch 4 Developing Arguments “Looking for Love on Craigslist...” pg 398	Discuss: Rhetorical Appeals Practice analyzing arguments
	R 9/12	Read: Primary source from HIST 1133	Discuss: Practice analyzing arguments Introduce: FE#1 Rhetorical Analysis

Week	Date	Do This Before Class	Do This In Class
4	T 9/17	Review: <i>LSH</i> S 1-3 Sentences InQuizitive Exercises 1,2,3	FE#2 Brainstorming Workshop Bring Laptops
	R 9/12	Write: Rough draft – bring 2 copies of your rough draft to class	Peer Review Workshop #1
5	T 9/24	Review: <i>LSH</i> S-4 & 5 Verbs InQuizitive Exercises 4,5 Write: Work on Revisions	FE#2 Revision Workshop Bring Laptops
	R 9/26	Write: Final draft	FE#1 DUE TODAY Watch: TBD
6	T 10/1	Read: AW “The Myth of the Helicopter Parent” D2L “In No Hurry: Growing up Slowly” Write: 2 Discussion Questions	Discuss: Argument Structure Parenting articles Introduce: ICE#2 Position Paper
	R 10/3	Plan ICE#2	ICE#2 Position Paper
7	T 10/8	Read: AW Ch 7 Writing in the Humanities AW “The Strategies of Forbidden Love: Family Across Racial Boundaries in Nineteenth-Century North Carolina” Write: 2 Discussion Questions	Discuss: Academic Disciplines Humanities Marriage Article Introduce: FE#2

	Date	Do This Before Class	Do This In Class
	R 10/10	<p>Read: “Changing Counts, Counting Change: Toward a More Inclusive Definition of Family”</p> <p>Write: Begin FE#2 rough draft</p>	<p>Discuss: Definitions of “Family”</p> <p>FE#2 Workshop</p>
8	T 10/15	<p>Read: <i>LSH</i> S-6 Pronouns <i>InQuizitive</i> Exercises 6,7</p> <p>Write: Rough draft – bring 2 copies of your rough draft to class</p>	PRW #2
	R 10/17	<p>Write: Final draft</p>	<p>FE#2 DUE TODAY <i>Library tour – meet in Moffett Library</i></p>
9	T 10/22	<p>Read: AW Ch 5 Academic Research</p>	<p>Discuss: Research Questions Finding sources Evaluating sources Introduce: Academic Researched Argument</p>
	R 10/24	<p>Write: A research question and thesis statement Review: AW Ch 4</p> <p><i>LSH</i> P-1&4 Commas & Quotation Marks <i>InQuizitive</i> Exercise 8,9, 10</p>	<p>Discuss: Summarizing, paraphrasing, quoting Avoiding plagiarism</p>

Week	Date	Do This Before Class	Do This In Class
10 Last day to drop with W, 10/28	T 10/29	Work on drafts	Discuss: Integrating Sources Templates Practice
	R 10/31	Work on drafts	Research Paper Workshop Bring Laptops
11	T 11/5	Work on revisions	Schedule Instructor Conference in my office
	R 11/7	Work on revisions	Schedule Instructor Conference in my office
12	T 11/12	Write: Rough draft – bring 2 copies of your rough draft to class	PRW #3
	R 11/14	Work on final drafts	NO CLASS – out of town for conference
13	T 11/19	Work on final drafts	RESEARCH PAPER DUE TODAY Introduce: Group Project
	R 11/21	Work on projects	Work on Projects
14	T 11/26	Work on projects	Work on Projects
	R 11/28		
15	T 12/3	Read: AW “How American Families Are Different” Work on Projects	Final Exam Prep
	R 12/5	Work on Projects	Presentations
16 Exam Week	TUESDAY 12/10	Plan your essay	FINAL EXAM 10:30AM