

**Professor:** Dr. Melissa Nivens  
**Class Time:** MW 2:30pm  
**Location:** PY 205  
**Office:** BeaWood 220  
**Email:** [melissa.nivens@msutexas.edu](mailto:melissa.nivens@msutexas.edu)  
**Office hours:** MW 9:00am-12:00pm  
TR 9:00am-11:00am  
Afternoons by appointment

# 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*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2014.

### Required Materials:

- Folder with pockets
- Note-taking materials
- 2 Blue Books

### 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:

- 15% Class Discussion Presentation
- 15% Literacy Narrative
- 15% Reader Response Papers
- 15% Lesson Plan Project
- 25% Research Paper
- 15% Final Exam Essay

### Final Exam:

- Wednesday, December 11 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 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 "Writing is not just something people do, but something people study."	M 8/26		Introductions Syllabus  What is Writing?
	W 8/28	<b>Read:</b> <i>NBCS</i> Parker, 3  D2L Threshold Concepts	Discuss readings Sample CDP Sign up for CDPs
2	M 9/2	<b>NO CLASS LABOR DAY</b>	
	W 9/4	<b>Read:</b> <i>NBCS</i> Douglas, 74 Fitzgerald, 171	CDP 1 & 2
3 "Writing is impacted by our prior experiences"	M 9/9	<b>Read:</b> D2L Brandt Robertson et al	CDP 3 & 4 Introduce Literacy Narrative
	W 9/11	<b>Read:</b> <i>NBCS</i> Rose, 586 Bartholomae, 605	CDP 5 & 6
4	M 9/16	<b>Read:</b> D2L Young Kim	CDP 7 & 8
	W 9/18	<b>Write:</b> Literacy Narrative Draft  Bring 2 copies of draft to class	Peer Review Workshop

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Do This Before Class</b>	<b>Do This In Class</b>
5 "Writing helps people make meaning and get things done, but there are always constraints."	M 9/23	<b>Read:</b> <i>NBCS</i> Villanueva, 991 Jones-Royster, 1117	CDP 9 & 10
	W 9/25	<b>Write:</b> Literacy Final Draft  <b>Read:</b> D2L Downs	<b>Literacy Narrative DUE TODAY</b>  Understanding Rhetoric
6	M 9/30	<b>Read:</b> <i>NBCS</i> Bizzell Brodkey	CDP 11 & 12
	W 10/2	<b>Read:</b> Reynolds, 897 Bazerman, 502	CDP 13 & 14
7 "Good writing' is dependent on writers, readers, situation, technology, and use."	M 10/7	<b>Read:</b> <i>NBCS</i> Flower & Hayes, 467 Fulkerson, 430	CDP 15 & 16
	W 10/9	<b>Read:</b> <i>NBCS</i> Shaughnessy, Selfe, 1163	CDP 17 & 18  Introduce Research Paper
8	M 10/14	<b>Read:</b> <i>NBCS</i> Lundsford & Ede, 813 Student Choice	CDP 19 & 20
	W 10/16	<b>Read:</b> <i>GCP</i> What is Composition Pedagogy Introduction, 1 Collaborative, 37  <b>Write:</b> Reader Response #1	<b>Discuss:</b> Composition Pedagogy  Basic Writing

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Do This Before Class</b>	<b>Do This In Class</b>
9 "Writing is a process, all writers have more to learn, and writing is not perfectible."	M 10/21	<b>Read:</b> <i>GCP</i> Community-Engaged, 55 Expressive, 111	<b>Discuss:</b> Pedagogy Practices  <b>Introduce:</b> Lesson Plan Project
	W 10/23	<b>Read:</b> Genre, 146  <b>Review:</b> D2L TEKS Common Core	<b>Discuss:</b> Pedagogy Practices TEKS/Common Core Activity  STAAR Assessment
10 <b>Last day to drop with W, 10/28</b>	M 10/28	<b>Read:</b> Literature & Comp, 163	STAAR Assessment
	W 10/30	<b>Read:</b> <i>GCP</i> Feminist, 128 New Media, 177  <b>Write:</b> Reader Response #2	<b>Discuss:</b> Pedagogy Practices
11	M 11/4	Work on Presentations	LPP
	W 11/6	Work on Presentations	LPP
12	M 11/11	<b>Read:</b> <i>GCP</i> Second Language, 266 Writing in the Disciplines, 283  <b>Write:</b> Reader Response #3	LPP (if necessary)  <b>Discuss:</b> Pedagogy Practices  <b>Introduce:</b> Research Paper
	W 11/13	<b>NO CLASS OUT OF TOWN FOR CONFERENCE</b>	

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Do This Before Class</b>	<b>Do This In Class</b>
13	M 11/18	Consider topics  Begin finding sources	Research Paper Workshop  Bring Laptop
	W 11/21	Work on drafts	Research Paper Workshop  Bring Laptop
14	M 11/25	Work on drafts	Instructor Conferences
	W 11/27	<b>NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	
15	M 12/2	<b>Write:</b> Rough Draft  Bring 2 copies of draft to class	Peer Review Workshop
	W 12/4	<b>Write:</b> Final Draft	<b>RESEARCH PAPER DUE</b>  Final Exam Review
16 Exam Week	W 12/11		<b>FINAL EXAM 5:45pm</b>