

Instructor: Dr. Kristen Garrison

Class Time: MWF 9-9:50am

Location: BW117

Office: Hardin Admin Bldg 112

Email: kristen.garrison@msutexas.edu

Office hours: MT 1:30-2:30 and by
appointment

ENGL 1143.101: Introduction to Critical Reading and Academic Writing

Syllabus

Required Textbook:

- Lunsford, Andrea and Michal Brody. *Let's Talk with Readings*. W.W. Norton, 2023.

Required Materials:

- Note-taking and writing materials
- Computer access

Course Goals:

- Apply key rhetorical concepts through analyzing and composing a variety of texts
- Engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, collaboration, and revision
- Use reading and composing for inquiry, learning, thinking, and communicating in various rhetorical contexts
- Use strategies – such as interpretation, synthesis, response, critique, and design to compose texts that integrate the writer's ideas with those from appropriate sources
- Use sources ethically and in contextually appropriate ways and follow a designated style guide
- Demonstrate proficient use of linguistic structures, including grammar and mechanics, through practice in composing and revising

THECB Required Course Objectives: This course fulfills a Texas core requirement for Communication. As such, the course will assess the following learning objectives:

- **Critical Thinking, Communication, & Personal Responsibility** - To assess these skills, the Synthesis rubric will be applied to the Synthesis Essay.
- **Teamwork** - To assess the student's teamwork, the Peer Review Teamwork rubric will be used to assess each student's preparation for and participation in a peer review workshop.

Course Assignments:

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

- 10% Reader Responses in D2L (10 entries, min. 100 words each)
- 5% Essay 1: Language Narrative (500-600 words)
- 10% Essay 2: “Do Sports Matter?” Summary/Response (800-900 words)
 - **The first draft of this essay will be written in class**; you will then have the opportunity to revise and edit before submitting it.
- 10% Essay 3: Representations of Nature Rhetorical Analysis (1100-1300 words)
- 10% Essay 4: Synthesis Project Proposal (500-600 words)
- 10% Synthesis Project Annotated Bibliography (800-1000 words)
- 15% Essay 5: Synthesis Paper (min. 1500 words)
 - **The first draft of this essay will be written in class**; you will then have the opportunity to revise and edit before submitting it.
- 15% Peer Review and Instructor Conferences
 - You will participate in conferences with your peers and instructor at various stages of the writing process
- 15% Final Exam: Final Presentation (oral presentation and written reflection)
 - **Your final exam for ENGL 1143 is Tuesday, 12/10, 10:30-12:30.** Take the time NOW to write down your final exam times for all classes, as few instructors will allow make-up exams. Make arrangements now to be on campus and off work!

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.

Submission Format and Policy: All formal assignments are to be typed and formatted – and outside sources documented - according to MLA style unless otherwise designated in the assignment prompt. All formal 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.

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 and WEPA (wireless printing kiosks): The University 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	24 hours (Mon-Sun) WEPA available in Lounge across hall
Dillard 146	Mon-Thurs 6:00 am – 7:00 pm
Moffett Library	Mon-Thurs 8:00 am – 10:00 pm; Fri. 8-5; Sat: 10pm-6 pm; Sun: 2:00 pm-10 pm
Legacy Hall	24 hours (Mon-Sun) WEPA available in Common Area
Prothro-Yeager	No open computer lab WEPA available on first floor

To set up a WEPA account, visit https://msutexas.edu/it/labs/#wepa_printing-hdg-3

Late Assignment Policy: Late assignments, defined as work not submitted by the designated date and time posted in the assignment sheet and on D2L will be accepted, but they will lose 10% off the final grade. Additionally, no late work will be accepted more than 48 hours after the original deadline. Even if you are unable to come to class on the day an assignment is due, you are still responsible for submitting it 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. Another way to think of it: it's putting your name on something that someone else wrote or created. You are earning grades for **your** work.

We will spend a lot of time talking about how to be ethical writers and researchers, including how we can (and should not) use AI. I am a resource for you, and one of the purposes of this class is to help you understand the rules for academic writing. If you're in doubt about how to use a source in your work, please ask.

At the very least, plagiarism will result in an F on the assignment; at worst, the consequence will be an F in the course. Instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Chair of the Department of English, Humanities, and Philosophy and/or the Dean of Students.

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: kristen.garrison@msutexas.edu I will respond as soon as I can, but please be proactive about reaching out when you have a question or need guidance.

Attendance Policy: It is important that you attend class and arrive on time. **If you have a total of more than three weeks' worth (6 classes) of absences (excused or not), you will need to drop the course**, as you likely will not be able to keep up with the course requirements and, more importantly, learn what you need to learn! Students who miss class 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.

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. You can find specific hours at this link: <https://msutexas.edu/academics/tasp/on-campus.php>

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.

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](#).