



Course Syllabus: Human Experiences
West College of Education and Professional Studies
COUN 2143
Fall 2026
Bridwell Room 204
Monday and Wednesday 9:00-9:50, Friday Online

Contact Information

Instructor: DaNette Stalnaker

Office: Counseling Center, Wellness Center

Office Hours: Monday, 8:00-9:00, Tuesday 8:00-9:00, Thursday 8:00-9:00, Friday 8:00-9:00. Afternoon options are available by appointment.

Office phone: (940) 397-4618

E-mail: danette.stalnaker@msutexas.edu

How to Contact Me

The best way to contact me is through my MSU email. My MSU email address is danette.stalnaker@msutexas.edu. This is the quickest method to reach me. You can expect a response within 24 hours, however, it could be a little longer on weekends or holidays.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

There is no textbook for the course. Open educational resources will be used this semester. Materials and other information will be provided on D2L.

Course Description

A study of perspectives shaped by individual, family, and community experiences, incorporating inquiry and research to deepen understanding.

Core Content and Skills

1. **Analyze** research on how individual, family, and community experiences shape perspectives and influence human interactions.
2. **Evaluate** research of varying viewpoints by applying course concepts to real-world media, narratives, and case studies.
3. **Develop** critical thinking and inquiry skills to interpret the motivations, values, and societal influences behind varying perspectives.
4. **Reflect** on and interpret research to gain insights into human interaction and relationships.
5. **Synthesize** insights gained from perspective analysis to deepen awareness of the complexities of human experiences and interactions

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

The Tutoring and Academic Support Program (TASP) offers a schedule of selected subjects tutoring assistance. Please contact the TASP, (940)397-4684, or visit the ASC homepage for more information.

[Tutoring & Academics Supports Programs](#)

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Assignments	Points
Autobiography Paper	200
Prospective Analysis Proposal Assignment	200
Perspective Analysis Paper	200
Research Assignment	50
Communication Assignment	50
Personal Growth Reflection Paper	50
Discussion Boards	100
Attendance/Punctuality	75
Active Participation	75
Total Semester Points	1000

Grades and Percentages of Final

Grade	Points
A	90 to 100%
B	80 to 89.99%
C	70 to 79.99%
D	60 to 69.99%
F	less than 59.99%

***Note that an “A” is 90% to 100%. There will be NO rounding and grades will be calculated with two decimal points.**

Written Work

All written work should be completed in a professional style. Using correct spelling and grammar are important writing skills you must know well because your students will learn from you. Therefore, all written assignments will have 10% -20% of the grade based on spelling and grammar. Expectations are for quality work. Correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, and appropriate citations are expected on all written assignments.

Written assignments should be written in Microsoft Word and turned in as an attachment in Dropbox on D2L

Discussions should be completed within the D2L discussion space and **NOT** uploaded as an attachment. For each Discussion Board, post a thoughtful response to the assigned material by **Sunday at 11:59 p.m.** of the assigned week. Your response should be well-written, organized, address all aspects of the material presented, and show clear critical thinking.

Required Assignments

There will be 6 major assignments in this course which are described within the course assignments folder: Autobiography Paper, Perspective Analysis Proposal, Perspective Analysis Paper, Research Assignment, Communication Assignment, and Personal Growth Reflection Paper. You will also receive a grade for discussion boards, attendance/punctuality, and active participation.

Exams

There is no mid-term or final exams. Your Perspective Analysis proposal will count as your mid-term and your Perspective Analysis paper will count as your final exam. Your Perspective Analysis paper will be submitted into TK20 as a key assessment. You must complete and submit the requirements to TK20 for your grade to be released.

Extra Credit

Extra credit will not be accepted for any assignments.

Late Work

No late work will be accepted. Students are expected to be on time with assignments and to complete every assignment by the due date. Because all assignments are posted from the beginning of the semester and will be submitted online, “make up” work should not be an issue. Exceptions to this are exceedingly rare and will be considered on a case-by-case basis with proper documentation.

Assignments are due by the due date. Personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time for submission.

Make Up Work/Tests

There will be no make-up or resubmissions allowed on papers, assignments, discussion boards, or any other activity in class.

Disposition and Reading feedback

It is crucial that you read the feedback for your assignments and exhibit professionalism. There are a lot of moving pieces in this course. Feedback provided throughout the semester will have instructions to improve your understanding of the topics that we discuss in our class, in addition to pointing out any errors in the submitted assignments.

Important Dates

- Change of schedule and late Registrations: **August 24-27, 2026**. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Deadline to file for graduation: **September 21, 2026**. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" **November 23, 2026**. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Blank submissions or submitting wrong files in D2L

Extreme care should be taken when you submit your final document. If by any chance you submit a wrong file, make sure to submit the correct one as early as possible. All of the Dropboxes are set to accept multiple files. I will evaluate the most recent submitted file. If I have to notify you that you submitted the wrong file and allow you to resubmit it, your grade will be 75% if the resubmission is within the date I specified in the feedback.

Online Computer Requirements

This class is a hybrid course, meaning it is both face-to-face in the classroom and online. Taking a course with an online component requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your

assignments. It is **YOUR** responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***Assignments and papers are due by the due date and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, papers, or discussion posts.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings, as well as in the Academic Success Center. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world that is connected to the Internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations, however, they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Instructor Class Policies

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment which is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in the class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones and other electronic devices. **Electronic communication devices will be turned off anytime the student is in the classroom.** Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave the class and a Professional Fitness Form will be filed for review with the college. If the instructor must file a Fitness Alert Form for any reason, including failure to demonstrate appropriate dispositions, the student may receive an instructor drop with an "F" for the course.

Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given) will not be considered. Turnitin is utilized for the written assignments and D2L directly syncs with it (you do not have to do anything).

Any plagiarism of 30% and above is too much! Your plagiarized assignment will not be graded, receive a zero, and no make-up allowed.

Self-plagiarism refers to submitting work for credit that is the same or substantially similar to work prepared or submitted for another course without appropriate citation. This includes reusing previous assignments, papers, presentations, or other submissions without instructor approval. Self-plagiarism gives the impression of original work when, in fact, the content has already

been submitted for assessment elsewhere. To avoid self-plagiarism, communicate openly with your instructor about building on existing work or repurposing prior submissions. Provide proper citations for any previous work referenced. Unless the instructor indicates otherwise, all assignments submitted for this course must be newly prepared by you and you alone for this specific class.

Any self-plagiarism of 30% and above is too much! Your plagiarized assignment will not be graded, receive a zero, and no make-up allowed

Advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) have now provided generative and creative applications such as Chat GPT, Google Bard, Guru, Microsoft Copilot, and others. Certainly, these tools can be quite useful in the learning process; however, the content they generate does not represent the effort and learning of the student. Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive workplace. We will be using AI in critically analyzing the various perspectives however submitting AI generated work in place of the original and genuine work of the student will be considered a form of academic misconduct. *AI must only be used as a tool to support your learning!!!* Therefore, **AI-generated submissions are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism. Any AI generated work of 30% and above is too much! Your assignment will not be graded, receive a zero, and no make-up allowed.** You may type a question into ChatGPT, however, you may not exactly copy or paste its response, and turn it in as your own. If you use ChatGPT or any AI, please use it in ways that are ethical, accurate, and useful.

Any instance of plagiarism, AI-generated content, and/or self-plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Academic Integrity Policy outlined in the Student Handbook. It's important to remember that the consequences of violating this policy are serious and can have a lasting impact on your academic record. By enrolling in this course, you acknowledge and agree to comply with this plagiarism and AI-generated content policy. Your understanding and commitment to academic integrity are crucial to our learning community

Attendance, Participation, and Assignment Submission

Class attendance according to your assigned face-to-face schedule is mandatory. Attendance and active participation in the classroom are essential parts of this course. Students are expected to be on time and in attendance at **every** class and to stay for the **entire** class. Tardiness, leaving early, and

excessive absences (3) are considered evidence of lack of dependability, and are taken seriously. **Students who are absent for three classes without acceptable documentation may be dropped from the course by the instructor with an “F” for the course.**

If you will not be in attendance for a class, it is imperative that you email the instructor **prior** to the class at danette.stalnaker@msutexas.edu. Students are still responsible for all scheduled assignments and papers.

No late work will be accepted. Students are expected to be on time with assignments and to complete every assignment by the due date. Because all assignments are posted from the beginning of the semester and will be submitted online, “make up” work should not be an issue. Exceptions to this are exceedingly rare and will be considered on a case-by-case basis with proper documentation.

Recording Classes

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor’s explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor’s prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Inclement Weather

In the case of campus closure due to inclement weather, this class will follow the university’s directive. If the campus is closed, class will be canceled. If the campus has a delayed start time that is **past** the class start time, class will be canceled for that day. **Be sure you have the MSU Alert app downloaded and also check the university’s website, as well as local news, for up-to-date information regarding campus closures and delays.**

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer

semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

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 Student Wellness Center, (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](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

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 prohibits 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.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick
Title IX Coordinator
Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse
940-397-4213
laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 at [Online Reporting Form](#)
Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit [Title IX Website](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

Other Expectations

Participation

It is not enough to just “show up.” In other words, you cannot just sit there and breathe. You need to be prepared to discuss the readings that are assigned, contribute appropriately, and encourage the participation of your peers.

Preparation

Complete all assignments on time. Complete readings assigned prior to class in order to be able to participate in class discussions and activities.

Attitude

Demonstrate the following dispositions that are essential for learning:

- Curiosity (ask questions, look for additional answers, probe, reflect)
- Flexibility (take alternate points of view, be open-minded)
- Organization (plan ahead – literally, GET A PLANNER!)
- Patience (take time to reason, be persistent in efforts)
- Risk-taking (try things beyond your current repertoire)
- Passion (invest in ideas, processes, products, and most of all – other people)

Be aware that your attitude is conveyed to others by body language, conversation, neatness, completeness of work, willingness to assist and contribute and many other ways. A sense of humor and the ability to be flexible are crucial – not just in this class but from now on – that is the nature of the classroom.

Respect

Be considerate of others. Do not use foul language; all contributions should be given in an ethical manner.

*****Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.**

I wish you all the very best and am so happy to have you all in class!!!