



Creative Inquiry: Interdisciplinary Thinking
MWSU 2003- 1H1
Fall 2026 MWF 12:00-12:50
DB-131

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Kyung Lee Gagum
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Office hours: by appointments and see below
Mondays-Thursdays: 1:30pm-2:30pm
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Course Description

This course is an introduction to the epistemological and methodological approaches used in the acclimation of knowledge. It is an interdisciplinary study of research methods, knowledge, and the search for truth in our world. We will examine the generation of knowledge in the natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities as well as how it is expressed in the visual and performing arts and applied in the business and education professions. The format for the course will include lectures, discussions, and active exercises and requires student participation. Throughout the course you will complete various research exercises as you explore interdisciplinary research. Your final product will be the creation of an electronic learning portfolio that documents the knowledge gained during this semester's journey into research.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able:

1. Explain the nature of knowledge in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities.
2. Identify how knowledge is expressed in the visual and performing arts and applied in the business and education professions.
3. Utilize 21st century technology as well as traditional methods in each of these areas of human exploration.
4. Understand how new knowledge is generated in these various areas as well as the challenges or dilemmas associated with such research.
5. Identify a research question, develop a plan of investigation, and select an appropriate method for investigation.

6. Present research in the appropriate format for the associated area of human investigation.
7. Construct a learning portfolio to document your introduction to the research process.

Career Readiness Competencies

By engaging in this course, you will work towards Career Readiness Competencies (from the National Association of Colleges and Employers) and being able to articulate how they relate to your learning:

I. Communication:

Clearly and effectively exchange information, ideas, facts, and perspectives with persons inside and outside of an organization.

II. Critical thinking:

Identify and respond to needs based upon an understanding of situational context and logical analysis of relevant information.

III. Equity and Inclusion:

Demonstrate the awareness, attitude, knowledge, and skills required to equitably engage and include people from different local and global cultures. Engage in anti-racist practices that actively challenge the systems, structures, and policies of racism.

IV. Leadership:

Recognize and capitalize on personal and team strengths to achieve organizational goals.

V. Professionalism:

Knowing work environments differ greatly, understand and demonstrate effective work habits, and act in the interest of the larger community and workplace.

VI. Teamwork:

Build and maintain collaborative relationships to work effectively toward common goals, while appreciating diverse viewpoints and shared responsibilities.

VII. Technology:

Understand and leverage technologies ethically to enhance efficiencies, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

No textbook purchase required. Online textbook is available free of charge. Link for the online textbook, excerpts, and texts are located on D2L.

Expectations and Grading

Students are expected to attend class. Lectures will not reproduce the texts. During class, students are expected to behave in an adult fashion: i.e. no note passing, punching, kissing, kicking or other juvenile behavior. Disrespectful behavior towards other students or the teacher will not be tolerated and will result in your removal from the class. Also, please turn cellular phones off or put them away during class. Since this class is designed to develop your research skills you will primarily be evaluated on your ability to apply these skills in various assignments and exercises. This includes a larger group research project. Your course grade will be determined by the percentage breakdown below. The privilege of additional work will not be granted.

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

For each lesson you can expect approximately **one and a half hours of homework/studying**. Sometimes it is more, sometimes less. Tutoring is available at the Office of Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP) located in the Muffet Library.

***NOTE:** As per The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR Title 34, Part 600.2), "a credit hour is an amount of work [...] reasonably approximates not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester."

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

- Reflection Essays 30%
- Campus Improvement Project Oral Presentation 30%
- Campus Improvement Presentation Poster Presentation 10%
- Research Exercises and Participation 10%
- Learning Portfolio 20%

Table 1: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Percentage
A	90 to 100
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	Less than 60

Late Work

Late submissions will not be accepted unless due to emergency or university approved absence.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 24-27, 2026 [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation: September 21, 2026 [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 23, 2026 [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.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should so inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an

attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

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.

Instructor Class Policies

Please be polite to your instructor and fellow students. Pay attention to the instructor and to your fellow students when they are speaking. No food or drinks, except for water, are allowed in our classrooms.

Email Policies

I will check email daily Monday through Friday and will make every effort to answer you within 24 hours. On the weekend, however, I might not be able to answer as quickly. Please make sure that you adhere to common rules of courtesy such as addressing me by name/title (Dr. Gagum), proofing spelling, and signing your name at the end of the email.

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."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

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

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

Course Schedule:

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

Date	Topic	Reading
Aug 24: Monday	Introduction	Syllabus
Aug 26: Wednesday	Is Knowledge learning or recollection?	Plato's Meno
Aug 28: Friday	Is Wisdom knowledge?	Aristotle's Metaphysics Book I. Parts 1-3
Aug 31: Monday	Library Tour	
Sept 2: Wednesday	The Acquisition of Knowledge: The Roles of Science, Faith, and Ethics	Stephen Jay Gould. "Nonoverlapping Magisteria" Natural History
Sept 4: Friday	The Acquisition of Knowledge: The Roles of Science, Faith, and Ethics	What Is Ethics in Research & Why Is It Important
Sept 14: Monday	The Problem: The Heart of the Research Process	Leedy & Ormord Chapter 2

Sept 16: Wednesday	Literature Review	Leedy & Ormord Chapter 3
Sept 18: Friday	Natural Sciences	Dr. Masuoka
Sept 21: Monday	Campus as text exploration	Campus as text exploration
Sept 23: Wednesday	Campus as Text Debriefing	Group reports
Sept. 25: Friday	Reflective Writing Workshop	Dr. Coenen
Sept. 28: Monday	Survey Research	Dr. Duff
Sept.30: Wednesday	Content Analysis	
Oct. 2: Friday	Learning Portfolio Workshop	
Oct. 5: Monday	Research in the Field: Details TBA	
Oct. 7: Wednesday	Fine arts	Jason Bly
Oct. 9: Friday	Research in the Humanities	
Oct.12: Monday	Research in Business	D2L
Oct. 14: Wednesday	Research in the Field: Details TBA	
Oct. 15: Friday	Research in Health Sciences	D2L
Oct. 19: Monday	Research in the Field: Details TBA	
Oct. 21: Wednesday	Research in Education	D2L
Oct. 23: Friday	Research in the Field: Details TBA	
Oct. 26: Monday	Research in the Field: Details TBA	
Oct. 28: Wednesday	Research in the Field: Details TBA	
Oct. 30: Friday	Research in the Field: Details TBA	
Nov. 2: Monday	Research in the Field: Details TBA	
Nov. 4: Wednesday	Research in the Field: Details TBA	
Nov. 6: Friday	Research in the Field: Details TBA	
Nov. 9: Monday	Research in the Field: Details TBA	
Nov. 11: Wednesday	Work Day	
Nov. 13: Friday	Work Day	
Nov. 16: Monday	Research in the Field: Details TBA	

Nov. 18: Wednesday	Research in the Field: Details TBA	
Nov. 20: Friday	Research in the Field: Details TBA	
November 21 (Sat 10:00 am)	Campus Improvement Symposium	Moffett Library Atrium
Nov. 23: Monday	Work Day	
Nov. 25: Wednesday	University closed (Holiday)	
Nov. 27: Friday	Thanksgiving Holiday	No Class
Nov. 30: Monday	Research in the Field: Details TBA	
Dec. 2: Wednesday	Campus Improvement Project poster Presentation	Moffett Library Atrium
Dec. 4: Friday	Research in the Field: Details TBA	
December 7 (Monday) (8:00-10:00)		E learning portfolios due