



## **Creative Inquiry: Interdisciplinary Thinking**

### **MWSU 2003- 1H2- Bolin 117**

### **Fall 2025**

#### **Contact Information**

Instructor: Dr. Kyung Lee Gagum  
Office: Bea Wood Hall 110  
Office hours: by appointments and see below  
Mondays-Thursdays: 12pm-1pm  
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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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](#)

## **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.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
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 25-28, 2025 [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation: September 22, 2025 [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 24, 2025 [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.

### **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.

### **Name/ Pronoun Policy**

It is important that we strive to make the classroom a respectful and inclusive place. If you feel comfortable doing so, you are encouraged to let me know during the first week of class what name you prefer to be called and if you prefer the use of masculine, feminine, or gender-neutral pronouns. These preferences can be applied just to your interactions with me or to all of your in-class interactions with your peers.

### **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) exist 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 Clark Student Center, Room 168, (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](#).

### **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 26: Tuesday	Introduction	Syllabus & Leedy & Ormord Chapter 2
Aug 28: Thursday	Library Tour & Literature Review	Leedy & Ormord Chapter 3
Sept 2: Tuesday	Campus as Text	Campus as text exploration
Sept 4: Thursday	Campus as Text Debriefing	Group reports
Sept 9: Tuesday	Is Knowledge learning or recollection? Is Wisdom knowledge?	Plato's Meno and Aristotle's Metaphysics Book I. Parts 1-10
Sept 11: Thursday	The acquisition of knowledge & The Role of Science and Faith in the Human World	Whitley, David. "In Suspect Terrain: Dating Rock Engravings" Stephen Jay Gould. "Nonoverlapping Magisteria" Natural History

Sept 16: Tuesday	Learning Portfolio Workshop	
Sept 18: Thursday		
Sept 23: Tuesday	Natural Sciences	Scientific Method, experimental research design Masuoka
Sept 25: Thursday	Reflective Writing Workshop	Hillary Coenen
	Natural Sciences	Rosscoe
September 30: Tuesday	Survey Research	Duff
October 2: Thursday	Content Analysis	Garrison
October 7: Tuesday	Fine Arts	Steve Hilton
October 9: Thursday	Research in the Humanities	Gagum
October 14: Tuesday	Fine arts	Jason Bly
October 16: Thursday	Research in the Humanities	Gagum
October 21: Tuesday	Research in Business	D2L
October 23: Thursday		
October 28 & 30	Research in Health Sciences	D2L
November 4 & 6	Work Days	
November 11 & 13	Research in Education	D2L
November 18 & 20	Work Days	
November 22nd (Sat 10:00 am)	Campus Improvement Symposium	Moffett Library Atrium
November 25	Thanksgiving Holiday	No Class
December 2: Tuesday	Learning Portfolio	
December 4: Thursday	Campus Improvement Project poster Presentation	Administrator Panel Bridwell Atrium
December 9 (Tuesday) (8:00-10:00 )		E learning portfolios due