



Course Syllabus: Creative Inquiry: Interdisciplinary Thinking
The Office of Undergraduate Research
MWSU 2003/4000 Section X10
Spring 2024

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Stacia (Whitworth) Miller

Office: Bridwell Hall 323

Office hours: Monday 1:00-3:00, Tuesday 11:00-1:00, Thursday 10:00-11:00, or
Friday by Appointment

Office phone: (940) 397-2804

E-mail: stacia.miller@msutexas.edu

Class Meeting Information

This course is delivered via distance learning and will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online management system (D2L) will be made available to each student.

As this is an online course, no attendance is required. However, regular and timely participation in discussions and on-time submission of other assignments is required. Each course week, with the exception of the last week, begins on Tuesday morning at 8:00 am and ends on Monday night at 11:59 pm. All due dates are 11:59 pm.

It is best that you log on to the course site daily to stay on track, even if it is just to check announcements and emails. I have provided a few links here about quality study hours for online learning.

[US News Article](#)

[Best Colleges Online Article](#)

If you would like to receive notifications via a regularly checked email or via text message, you can set it up in D2L. Once you are logged in, go to the drop down by your name in the gold navigation bar. Click "notifications", then you can register an email or mobile number and customize which notifications you would like to receive.

Instructor Response Policy

During the week, I will typically respond to your emails within 24-48 hours. Any emails received over the weekend will receive a response no later than Tuesday,

8 AM. Emails received on holidays typically will receive a response no later than 8 AM on the second business day after the holiday.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Leedy, P.D., & Ormrod, J. E. (2019). *Practical research: Planning and design* (12th ed.). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson. However, 10th and 11th editions are suitable.

Access to a personal computer with Microsoft Software, high speed Internet and the ability to access D2L the MSU Online Learning System.

Recommended-Enriching Readings

Lehrer, Jonah. (2012). *Imagine: How Creativity Works*. Harcourt Publishing, New York, NY, 2012 [ISBN 978-0-547-38607-2]

Johnston, Steven. *How We Got to Now: Six Innovations That Made the Modern World*. New York: Riverhead Books, a member of Penguin Group (USA), 2014.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to inter- and cross-disciplinary research. It creates opportunities to inquire and to think out-of-the box. You will learn what research is and what is not, how to review the literature relevant to your research/creative activity project, to differentiate among various research types, and the approaches/methodology your fellow undergraduate researchers, who are in the EURECA program use to answer the questions proposed in their research projects. You will have the opportunity to share your research/creative activity with EURECA mentors and your fellow researchers.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- To identify what research is and what is not.
- To describe the essential components of the research process.
- To use databases to find relevant primary and secondary sources of information.
- Differentiate among the various research types and creative activities.
- Differentiate among the various methodologies used in research.
- To recognize and practice the conditions that lead to creative thinking and discovery
- To apply critical thinking, deductive and inductive reasoning to solve problems, answer questions and to create and discover.
- To conduct research ethically and recognize discipline-specific ethical issues.
- To write a research/creative work proposal to answer a question.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2023-24](#)

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](#)

As an extension of the MSU Academic Dishonesty Policy and in order to fairly evaluate all students' work, all work submitted in this course must be generated by the students themselves. Therefore, work submitted that has been generated by another person/entity and the use of Automated Writing Tools, including chatGPT and other comparable artificial intelligence (AI) tools, is considered plagiarism and in violation of MSU policy.

Grading/Assessment

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments before or by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and late assignments (not discussed ahead) will have a minimum automatic 25%-point deduction for each day late. Students may be permitted to make-up course work under 2 conditions, 1) notify the instructor prior to the absence to devise a make-up plan, or 2) provide evidence of an excused absence.

Format – For All Papers: 12-point Times New Roman font, one (1) inch margins, and doubled spaced. The heading should have your names, the class and section number, and the right-justified on the page. Papers that do not follow this format will not be accepted or graded. Grammar will be graded as a part of any course work. All work should be in your own words.

I will give feedback on assignments when appropriate, including, comments through "news items", comments directly in the discussion board, and comments to the feedback box associated with each assignment submitted to dropbox. Please take the time to read these comments as I am taking the time to make them.

Grades for each assignment will be posted in the D2L course grade book.

Table 1: Weight allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Weight
Quizzes	25%
Major Assignments	25%
Module Activities	10%
Non-EURECA students: Research Proposal OR EUREAC students: Research Project/Creative Activity Presentation Score at the UGRCA Forum	40%
Quizzes	25%
Total Points	100%

Table 2: Range for final grade.

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

Quizzes

Quizzes will assess your understanding of the material presented in the textbook chapters, readings, videos, etc. and are scheduled after the completion of 3 to 4 modules. Quizzes will be administered on D2L. Each quiz is timed, thus make sure you take it at a time with no distractions. You will have two attempts to complete the quizzes. Your grade will be the average of the two attempts. Time begins when you tell the program to start the clock. The average of all quizzes weighs 25%.

Assignments

There will be 5 assignments throughout the semester that coincide with module topics and class activities. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments must be typed and submitted via the designated D2L Dropbox. More details will be shared within each assignment. The average of all assignments weighs 25%.

Module Activities

This course is organized into modules of different lengths, so pay attention to dates. See the module checklist in each module folder for specific requirements and directions. Each week you will have reading assignments accompanied by PowerPoints or recorded lectures. See all due dates below in the schedule and on D2L. All assignments are due at 11:59 pm on the due date. Any assignment can be submitted before the due date. Modules can be viewed and completed at any time, but all work must be submitted by the appropriate due date. The module activities are formative assessments to check students understanding of knowledge on each of the topics covered. Students are provided with different types of questions or tasks they are required to answer based on readings and lectures. The average of all engagement/participation/activities weighs 10%.

Research/Creative Activity Proposal

Central to this course is to write a research/creative activity proposal. This applies only to non-EURECA students enrolled in MWSU 2003. EURECA students enrolled in MWSU 2003 or MWSU 4000 are working with faculty mentors on a research/creative activity project, and their grade will be based on the presentation of their project at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Forum (UGRCAF) in April. In either case, this grade item weighs 40%.

Extra Credit

Extra Credit may be offered during the semester and posted on D2L.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: January 19, 2024. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for December graduation: February 12, 2024. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" April 24, 2024 by 4:00 pm Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Dates and Activities Related to EURECA (required for EURECA students and recommended for nonEURECA students)

- Posters on the Go (PotG), March 7th @ 4:00 pm- EURECA student researchers who are in this course engage in this activity every semester. You are invited to attend. EURECA students describe their research projects and discuss results in a simple format like that of an elevator speech in an informal set up. It will take place in the Clark Student Center.
- Celebration of Scholarship & UGRCA Forum, April 17 & 18, 2024- More information will be shared as it gets closer.

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. There is an extensive [D2L Student help site](#) through MSU Distance Education.

Attendance

This course is delivered via D2L as an asynchronous course. Access to the MSU D2L online management system will be made available to each student. Asynchronous online instruction occurs anytime during the week. Students watch lectures, read assigned materials, inspect websites, answer and write questions, discuss readings and engage in learning activities in a virtual environment. Course materials are organized into modules. Modules contain objectives to be accomplished, tasks to complete in order to accomplish the objectives, assessment activities and expected outcomes. Your success in this course depends on how well you engage in your own learning.

Instructor, Class, and College Policies

Citation and Reference Style

Students will follow the APA Style Manual, 7th Edition as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation used in the APA Style Manual, 7th Edition.

Inclement Weather

In the event of university closure because of inclement weather conditions or emergency situations, students should refer to the syllabus, D2L, and their university email for expectations and alternate online assignments for this course. Students who are unable to complete these assignments during a closure (for example, due to a power outage) will not be penalized.

Three Then Me Rule

Before you email me, make sure to follow the "Three then Me" rule. The "Three then Me" rule says that you search for your answer regarding the course in at least three other places before you email me. For example, if you have a question about an assignment, you could consult your syllabus, the assignment description on D2L, or another student in the class. Remember, check three sources before you email me your question. It is very likely you'll find the answer and not need to email me. If you don't find the answer, and need clarification, feel free to email me.

Plagiarism Statement

"By enrolling in this course, 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, authenticity, and educational purposes." [Student Handbook 2023-2024](#)

College Policies

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 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](#).

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

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](#).

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS. 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.

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 [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). 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

Please note that this is just an outline. Full module checklists can be found in D2L. Each module begins on a Tuesday morning @ 8:00 am and ends on Monday night @ 11:59 pm. All due dates are 11:59 pm. You may have multiple things due each week.

Module	Dates	Content and Activities	Activities & Assignments with Due Dates
Module #1	Jan 16- Jan 22	Course Introduction and Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review Syllabus in D2L – Syllabus Quiz- Due 1/22 ○ Introductions on Flipgrid- Due 1/22 ○ Join CUR (no cost to student)
Module #2	Jan 23- Jan 29	The Nature and Tools of Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read Ch. 1 ○ Ch. 1 Quiz- Due 1/29 ○ Tools of Research Activity- Due 1/29
Module #3	Jan 30- Feb 12	The Problem: The Heart of the Research Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read Ch. 2 ○ Ch. 2 Review Activity- Due 2/5 ○ Steven Johnson video discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Original Posts- Due 2/5 ○ Response Posts- Due 2/12 ○ Quiz 1 in D2L- Due 2/12 ○ Assignment 1- Due 2/12
Module #4	Feb 13- Feb 26	Review of the Related Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read Ch. 3 ○ Primary, secondary and tertiary sources activity- due 2/19 ○ Reading the Literature Activity- due 2/19 ○ Assignment 2- Part 1- Due 2/26
Module #5	Feb 27- Mar 25	Planning Your Research Project & Ethics <i>Posters on the Go- March 7th at the CSC</i> <i>Spring Break</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read Ch. 4 ○ Assignment 2 Part 2- Due 3/4 ○ Ch. 4 Review Activity- due 3/4 ○ Dr. Resnik’s article discussion and ethical dilemmas discussion board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Original Posts- Due 3/18 ○ Response Posts- Due 3/25 ○ Assignment 3- Due 3/25
Module #6	Mar 26- Apr 1	Writing the Research Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read Ch. 5 ○ Proposal Evaluation Activity- due 4/1 ○ Begin Research Prop Draft- Due 4/15 ○ Begin Assignment 4- Due 4/29
Module #7	Apr 2- Apr 15	Research Design and Data Analyses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read through Ch. 6, 7, 8, 11, and 12 ○ Recognizing Research Design & Analysis Activity- due 4/8 ○ Quiz 2 in D2L- Due 4/15 ○ Research Prop Draft- Due 4/15
Module #8	Apr 16- May 6	Working on EURECA Proposal or UGRCAF Presentation <i>UGRCAF- April 18th in CSC</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #5- UGRCAF- Due 4/18 (note this date is atypical because it is related to the event) • Research Proposal- Peer Review- Due 4/22 • Assignment 4- Due 4/29 • Research Prop- Due 5/6