

**MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
FALL SEMESTER 2022**

Course: MWSU 1233-109

Course Title: College Connections

Class Time: T/TR 11:00 a.m. – 12:20p.m.

Office Location: 113D Moffett Library

Office Hours: Open door policy or by apt.

Class Location: 113G Moffett Library

Instructor: Ashley Hurst

E-Mail: ashley.hurst@msutexas.edu

Peer Leader: Jesutobiloba (Tobi)

Message via Groupme

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to help new students make the transition to a college environment, focusing on the cognitive, behavioral, and experiential dimensions of learning. There is an emphasis on study skills as well as written and oral communication. There will be a common read as well as a career exploration project. Attendance will be required at selected activities and every class.

Required Course Materials & Texts:

- Something to hold all of your class materials
- The First-year Mustangs Adventure Guide (provided on the first day of class)
- *Your College Experience: Strategies for Success* 14th Ed. by John Gardner & Betsy Barefoot
- *Old School Grit* by Darrin Donnelly (Common Read)
- Group Me mobile app

Attendance:

Because class participation and in-class assignments are such a large part of this class, attendance is very important. Attendance will be taken during each class. Arrive to class on time. **You are allowed two unexcused absences. For every unexcused absence after, 10 points will be subtracted from your attendance grade.** Medical absences must be documented by a physician. Other emergencies must be communicated to the instructor **PRIOR TO CLASS.**

Academic Misconduct:

Midwestern State University operates under the Student Honor Creed which states, ***“As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so.”*** The full Student Honor Creed can be found online <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/conduct/>

Diversity Statement:

Tutoring and Academic Support embraces a notion of the intellectual community enriched and enhanced by diversity along a number of dimensions, including race, ethnicity and national origins, gender and gender identity, sexuality, class and religion. We are especially committed to increasing and supporting those populations that have been historically excluded from participation in U.S. higher education.

Documented Disability:

- In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations are made for any student with a documented disability. Students should register with Disability Support Services. More information can be found here: <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/disability/>
- Requests for accommodation are acceptable at any time during the semester, but you are encouraged to contact me in person, or via email, as early as possible.

Other Classroom Considerations:

- Assignments not submitted in class due to an excused absence must be turned in the following class period. If you are unable to attend class and an assignment is due that day, it is your responsibility to get the assignment to your instructor PRIOR to class that day.
- I understand that cellphones are an important appendage to us all. Be courteous to me and to your peers, and don't let them become a distraction.
- Other topics may be added by the instructor; changes and modifications to the syllabus may be made throughout the semester, but you'll be notified promptly.
- Extra credit opportunities will be given throughout the semester in addition to the opportunities noted in the course outline below at the instructor's discretion. All extra credit opportunities will be worth **15 points each**.
- Written reports are to be typed in a 12-point font and double-spaced.
- Since the success of this course relies on our ability to successfully and maturely communicate goals and opinions, the instructor and students will observe mutual respect and consideration.

Course Requirements and Points: (1000 Total Points Possible)

Grades:

The basis for the final grade will be the average of assignments, projects, tests, and participation. In other words, everything a student does in and for class counts. Students must demonstrate competency in writing through journal entries and other written work, in oral communication through class presentations and participation, and computer competency through specified assignments. Grades will be as follows: (A) 900-1000, (B) 800-899, (C) 700-799, (D) 600-699, and (F) 599 and below.

Grading Scale:

A = 1000-900 points

B = 899-800 points

C = 799-700 points

D = 699-600 points

F = 599-0 points

Due Dates:

All assigned work will be due at the beginning of class on the dates specified. No late work will be accepted unless specific arrangements have been made with the instructor in advance. A missed assignment will be eligible for makeup only due to an officially excused absence with *proper* documentation provided, and must be scheduled the day the student returns to class. It is the student's responsibility to stay current with class activities and assignments. If documentation is provided as to the reason for the absence and the absence is excused in accordance with university policy, the student must request the missed work/materials the first class after they return.

Information on the Mustangs Adventure Guidebook:

This guidebook serves as a shared experience across all incoming freshmen enrolled in any of the FYS (First Year Seminar) courses. The Adventure Log in the front of your guidebook was designed for the credit/no credit version of the FYS. You are in the College Connections version of the FYS; therefore, some of the adventure choices have been changed. Please see the following table of required adventures with grading breakdowns:

Adventure	Date	What did you do?	Points available
1	November	Met with my academic advisor to schedule spring classes!	25 points to be awarded in Registration Assignments for this course.
2	Early September	Reception with Dr. Mazachek	25 pts to be awarded in Adventure Guide Assignment
3	November	Attend a tutoring session or homework help.	25 pts to be awarded in Adventure Guide Assignment
4			20 pts Campus Activities
5			20 pts Campus Activities
6			20 pts Campus Activities
7			20 pts Campus Activities
8			20 pts Campus Activities

There will also be two additional Adventure Guide checks worth 25 pts each:

Early October	Planner Check
End of the Semester	Writing Prompts and full planner check

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Assignments (1,000 Points Total)

**Campus Activities
100 Points**

5 events x 20 points each

You must attend 5 campus events/activities and document them in the Activity Log in the Adventure Guide and through GroupMe. Examples of activities include a basketball game, a school production, a UPB Program, or an artist lecture series event. You may not count more than one of the same sport/activity (i.e. 5 movies) and no more than two of the activities can be sporting events.

**Registration Assignments
100 Points**

4 assignments x 25 points each

You will be responsible for completing 4 tasks related to the registration process at MSU. Details and deadline will be discussed during the semester and will include Degree Plan Knowledge, a 4 Semester Plan, Early Advising (to be logged in Adventure guide), and timely Class Registration.

Mustangs Adventure Guide
100 Points

4 checks x 25 points each

You will be asked to keep the Mustangs Adventure Guidebook with logs and planners for the fall 2022 semester. The guidebook will be checked 4 separate times during the semester. Failure to produce **AND/OR** keep up with the guidebook will result in receiving a zero for that check.

Quizzes
100 Points

4 quizzes x 25 points each

You will be responsible for completing selected quizzes covering assigned chapters in your text. Failure to complete the quiz on the assigned date will result in a zero for that quiz.

Common Read Assignments
100 Points

4 assignments x 25 points each

During the semester, you will be responsible for completing 4 assignments that relate to the 2022 Common Read, Old School Grit.

Save Act Assignment
100 Points

1 survey x 100 points

To help create a safe educational environment, A NEW UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AT MSU is required to complete an online program called “Think About It” during their 1st semester on campus. You should receive log in information through the email you have listed in the system. Older students that have completed the assignment will be given a separate assignment.

Career Project
200 Points

1 project x 200 Points

You will be asked to choose a career that interests you and research that career. You will use resources from the Career Management Center, complete a resume, compile your research findings into a portfolio, and present those findings through an in-class presentation. Details will be given later in the semester.

Final Exam
100

1 exam x 100 points

A final exam will be given on the last day of class.

Class Participation
100 Points