Course Syllabus: Human Experiences POTB

Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education
COUN 2143 X15
Fall 2026
Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Reeves Fyfe **Office**: Flower Mound #114 **Office Phone**: 940-247-0841 (text encouraged) **E-mail**: Emily.reeves@msutexas.edu	**Office hours**: TBD – based on student survey

Course Description

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

Textbook & Instructional Materials

N/A – materials will be provided.

Instructor Response Policy

The best way to contact me is through email. I will do my best to respond to all emails and texts within 24 hours; however, you will definitely receive a response within 48 hours (2 business days). Any emails or texts received during weekends will receive a response the following Monday.

Course 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 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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given).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.

AI / Chat GPT

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. Therefore, AI-generated submissions are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism.

You may type a question into ChatGPT, you may not exactly copy and paste its response, and turn it in as your own. If you use ChatGPT, you must disclose this somewhere in your assignment. If you use ChatGPT or any AI, please use it in ways that are ethical, accurate, and useful.

Grading/Assessment

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignment	Points
Autobiography	15
Understanding Perspectives Exit Ticket	15
Perspective Analysis Portfolio Assignments	45
Research Presentation	15
Course Check Ins (2) 5 points each	10
Total Points	**100**

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Below 60

Assignments

The two major assignments are described below. You will also have discussions and weekly assignments, including smaller assignments that support those listed below.

Perspective Analysis Portfolio

The purpose of this portfolio is to help you develop a deeper understanding of how individual, family, and community experiences shape individual perspectives. Through critical analysis of real-world media, narratives, or case studies, you will reflect on differing perspectives and apply course concepts to evaluate the factors influencing these perspectives. Components of this portfolio will be submitted to TK20 as your key assessment for the course. This is required to pass the course.

Three Minute Research Presentation

For your culminating assignment, you will deliver a Three Minute Research Presentation that distills your course project into a clear, engaging, and impactful talk. This format challenges you to communicate complex ideas concisely, using accessible language for a general audience.

Your presentation should highlight the core purpose, key findings, and significance of your work—demonstrating not only what you accomplished, but why it matters. This final task is designed to sharpen your communication, synthesis, and public speaking skills, which are critical for academic, professional, and real-world success.

Extra Credit

No extra credit assignments will be given or accepted.

Late Work

Work must be turned in when it is due for full credit. The following deductions will be made when work is submitted late.

- 25% deduction 1-6 days late
- 50% deduction for 7 or more days late.
- 100% deduction for 15 or more days late

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 such as certification requirements, developing your research question, figuring out the data analysis for future course, and many other things. I will support you to be successful and guide you throughout the course, however, that requires you to read feedback, answer emails timely, and show growth, and professionalism as needed for a master's student. The feedback will have instructions to improve your understanding of the topics that we discuss in our class, in addition to pointing out the mistakes in the submitted assignments. I am happy to meet individually via phone, virtually, or in-person to discuss feedback.

Important Dates

- Change of schedule and late Registrations: **Aug 24-27**. Check date on Academic Calendar.
- Deadline to file for graduation: **Sept 21.** Check date on Academic Calendar.
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" **Nov 23**. 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.

Please note: *This class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete weekly activities, check for class news updates, have access to materials, instructions, resources and to upload your assignments in D2L. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class.* ***Assignments are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time for submission. Each time you log into D2L is documented. You should open D2L often to reference content, materials, and updates.***

Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ***Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!*** *There are many places to access your class! 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.*

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 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 daily. 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.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class 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 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, tests, or discussion postings.** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as 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**.**

I will use D2L for posting the syllabus, course communication, course schedule, attendance, and gradebook. There will be online office hours announced through D2L. You should check D2L at least three times per week.

Important Course Information

Expectations for written work:

- Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling are expected on all written assignments (although web discussions are not held to the high standard of a research project or other written assignment).
- Written assignments can be done in one of the following:
  - Microsoft Word and turned in as an attachment in dropbox on D2L
  - PDF Document and turned in as an attachment in dropbox on D2L
  - Google doc with the share link submitted to D2L (Make sure share settings are set to "anyone with the link can view or edit")
- Discussions should be completed within the D2L discussion space and NOT uploaded as an attachment.
- Due dates should be honored in order to receive the highest grade.
- When referring to the ideas of others, works should be cited using the APA format.

Inclement Weather

In the case of campus closure due to inclement weather, updates will be shared through Navigate and posted in the News section. The class will follow MSU's official guidance regarding closures and weather-related disruptions.

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

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.

Students with Disabilities:

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. Students must present appropriate verification from the University's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office during the instructor's office hours. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation(s) to a student until appropriate verification from DSS has been provided.

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

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.

Other Expectations

Participation

It is not enough to just "show up." In other words, you cannot just sit there and breathe. (For online classes, you should log in D2L multiple times per week if not daily to check assignments, feedback, and engage in learning, etc.) 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.

Course Schedule

Module/Week	What you are doing	What is DUE Sunday @ 11:59PM
Starts: October 17	Get comfortable with the class and expectations – organize your calendar.	N/A
Week 1 Starts: October 19	Autobiography	Autobiography - You must use the template. If you do not use the template, you will receive a zero.
Week 2 Starts: October 26	Understanding Perspectives mini lesson	Understanding Perspectives mini lesson Exit Ticket Course Check-In 1
Week 3 Starts: November 2	Starting our research: Portfolio Cover, Introduction, and 3 References - this allows me to make sure that you are on track to start your analysis work	Portfolio Cover, Introduction, and 3 References– You must use the template. If you do not use the template, you will receive a zero.
Week 4 Starts: November 9	Analysis 1	Analysis 1 Course Check-In 2
Week 5 Starts: November 16	Analysis 2 and Analysis 3 Final, Complete Perspective Analysis Portfolio	Final, Complete Perspective Analysis Portfolio - this must be completed using the template, or you will receive a zero.
Week 6/7 Starts: November 23	Research Presentation	Research Presentation Submission and 2 Peer Posts
	I do not give finals	