



Course Syllabus for Creative Inquiry: Interdisciplinary Thinking

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities

MWSU4000 Section X10

Fall 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Stacia (Whitworth) Miller

Office: Bridwell Hall 323

Student Drop-In Hours (Office hours): Mon 11-12, Tues 10-11 and 1-3, Thurs 10-11, and Fri by appointment

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Class Meeting Information

Seminar: TBD (1.5 hour)

Meeting Location: TBD

In addition, modules and discussion boards will be done in D2L.

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.

Course Description and Overview

This course provides a cross-disciplinary seminar experience for undergraduate research scholars participating in the EURECA program. Students will engage in guided discussions about the research process and connect concepts introduced through EURECA D2L modules to their own research and creative activity experiences. The seminar provides opportunities to learn from peers across disciplines, share research experiences, discuss challenges and successes, explore approaches to problem-solving, and consider the broader practices and realities of conducting research. Through discussion, reflection, and peer learning, students will develop as confident and reflective researchers while building a collaborative community of undergraduate scholars. The seminar complements, rather than replaces, discipline-specific faculty mentoring and

provides a space to address the common experiences of undergraduate researchers across fields.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies

By participating in the seminar, students will:

- Develop a stronger sense of belonging within a community of researchers
- Deepen understanding of foundational research knowledge and application of research skills
- Gain confidence in navigating the complexities of the research process
- Develop problem-solving, resilience, and strategies to navigate setbacks and challenges in the research process
- Apply ethical principles to real-world research scenarios
- Improve their ability to communicate research effectively to diverse audiences
- Reflect on their research journey to foster scholarly growth and confidence

Textbook & Instructional Materials

No textbook is required for this course. Instead, students will use a variety of online resources, including current research articles, professional organization publications and position statements, and other scholarly and professional resources related to undergraduate research. Readings and resources will be provided through D2L and may be updated throughout the semester to reflect current research and developments in the field.

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

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

If tutoring or assistance is needed, please do not hesitate to reach out to me for further help.

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](#)

As an extension of the MSU Academic Dishonesty Policy, 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, unless properly cited, and in violation of MSU policy.

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

This is a zero-credit, not-for-credit seminar. Students will not receive a letter grade or academic credit for the course. Successful completion of the seminar is based on attendance and active participation in the required seminar meetings and activities.

Students are expected to attend 3 of the 4 scheduled seminar meetings and actively participate in discussions, activities, and peer-learning opportunities. Additional information about meeting dates, times, and expectations will be provided during the semester.

Because the seminar is designed to support students' development as undergraduate researchers, participation is intended to provide opportunities to engage with peers, reflect on research experiences, share ideas, and learn from researchers across disciplines.

Online Learning Modules:

Throughout the semester, students will complete a series of EURECA Online Learning Modules in D2L prior to the seminar sessions. These modules provide foundational information, resources, and activities related to the undergraduate research process and are designed to prepare students for meaningful participation in the seminar discussions.

Students should complete the assigned module and any associated activities before the corresponding seminar meeting. Seminar sessions will build upon the module content through discussion, application, peer learning, problem-solving, and reflection. Students should come prepared to discuss how the concepts presented in the modules relate to their own research or creative activity.

Four-Session Overview:

The EURECA Seminar consists of four discussion-based sessions designed to complement students' faculty mentoring and EURECA learning modules. Each session provides an opportunity to move beyond completing online assignments and apply concepts to students' own research or creative activity through discussion, collaboration, problem-solving, and reflection.

- Before the First Seminar – Research Ethics
Students will complete the required CITI research ethics training applicable to their research prior to the first seminar.
- Seminar 1 – Research Foundations: Questions, Sources, and Project Framing:
Students will refine their understanding of their research or creative activity by examining their research questions, preliminary sources, and project focus. Through peer discussion, students will evaluate the relevance and credibility of sources, identify potential gaps or additional perspectives, and consider how their work connects to broader and cross-disciplinary research themes.
- Seminar 2 – Research Design and Methodology: Students will examine the methodologies used in their projects and consider how methodological choices influence research outcomes. Students will compare approaches across disciplines, discuss alternative perspectives, and apply ethical principles to research scenarios. The session will encourage students to identify ways they might refine their research approach while considering responsible research practices.
- Seminar 3 – Navigating Research: Challenges, Setbacks, and Problem-Solving: Students will explore the realities of conducting research, including unexpected results, time constraints, difficulties with data collection or analysis, and other challenges. Through peer problem-solving and reflection, students will share experiences, identify strategies for addressing challenges, and develop greater resilience and adaptability as researchers.
- Seminar 4 – Communicating Research and Reflecting on Growth: Students will practice communicating their research to audiences both within and outside their discipline. Activities will focus on clarity, accessibility, and effective communication of research ideas and findings. Students will also reflect on their research journey, including their growth, challenges, successes, and future goals as emerging researchers.

Attendance and Make Up Work

Because this is a zero-credit, not-for-credit seminar, there are no traditional make-up assignments for missed meetings. Students are expected to attend **3 of the 4 scheduled seminar meetings** as part of their participation in the EURECA program.

If a student is unable to attend a required meeting due to an illness, university-related activity, academic conflict, or other significant circumstance, the student should communicate with the instructor as soon as possible. When appropriate, an alternative activity or opportunity to engage with the material may be provided.

Students are responsible for reviewing any materials or information shared during a meeting they miss.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: August 27, 2026. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Deadline to file for graduation: September 21, 2026 Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W": November 23, 2026 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.

Computer/D2L Requirements

Taking this 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 and 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 which 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](#).

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

Below are specific policies which apply to this class.

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.

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."

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.

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

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 Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and 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](#).

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](#)

Course Schedule:

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

Seminar Topics	Module Assignments in D2L with Due Dates
Seminar 1: Research Ethics & Building Your Research Foundation	Ethics Module: CITI Training and MSU IRB • MSU IRB Site Assessment- due 9/13 • CITI Completion Certificate- due 9/13 • Finding Credible Sources- Due 9/13
Seminar 2: Research Design & Methodology	Research Methodologies and Creative Research Methods- Due 9/27
Seminar 3: Navigating Research: Challenges, Setbacks, and Problem-Solving	Posters on the Go Reflection Questions- Due @ Seminar Meeting (TBD)
Seminar 4: Communicating Research & Reflecting on Growth	Preparing Successful Presentations- Due 11/8