

Professor: Dr. Melissa Nivens
Class Time: TR 9:30am
Location: PY 101
Office: BeaWood 220
Email: melissa.nivens@msutexas.edu
Office hours: MW 9:00am-12:00pm
TR and afternoons by appointment

ENGL 1143.207: Academic Research and Writing

Syllabus

Texts:

- Ingraham, Lauren and Jeanne Law Bohannon. *The Writer's Loop: A Guide to College Writing*. Bedford/St. Martins. 2020.

Required Materials:

- Note-taking materials
- 2 Blue Books
- D2L/Achieve Access
- Webcam/microphone (for Zoom meetings when necessary)

Course Goals:

- Apply knowledge of rhetoric to make decisions about written communication
- Engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, and revision
- Write thesis-based academic arguments that provide strong support and specific details
- Find, evaluate, and synthesize credible sources in support of a research paper
- Use sources ethically and in contextually appropriate ways and follow a designated style guide
- Demonstrate proficient use of Standard Written English
- Additional information about course objectives can be found on the department webpage, <https://msutexas.edu/academics/libarts/english/index.php>.

Course Requirements:

- 10% 2 Timed Writings (350-word min. each)
- 30% 2 Formal, Revised Essays (750-word min. each)
- 20% Researched Academic Argument (1500-word min.) and Annotated Bibliography
- 10% 2 Peer Review Workshops/ 1 Instructor Conference
- 10% Achieve Grammar and Reflection Exercises
- 10% Final Portfolio Project
- 10% Final Exam Essay

Final Exam:

- The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, April 27 at 10:30am. The location is TBD.

Grading Policy: This class will not use the plus/minus grading system. In this class, the following numerical equivalents for final grades are used:

A = 100-90%;

B = 89-80%;

C = 79-70%;

D = 69-60%;

F = 59-0

Midterm Grades: In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, I will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. I will submit a grade for all students, not just those in danger of failing the course. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give you an idea of where you stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should make an appointment with me and consider visiting the Writing Center.

Submission Format and Policy: All formal assignments are to be typed and formatted – and outside sources documented - according to MLA style. All formal papers will be uploaded into the D2L Dropbox folder and/or Achieve.

By enrolling in this class, 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 and authenticity, and for educational purposes.

Note: You may not submit a paper for a grade in this class that already has been (or will be) submitted for a grade in another course, unless you obtain the explicit written permission of me and the other instructor involved in advance.

Late Assignment Policy: Late assignments, defined as work not submitted by the start of class on the designated due date, will be accepted, but they will lose 10% of the final grade. Additionally, no late work will be accepted more than 48 hours after the original deadline. If you are unable to come to class on the day an assignment is due, you should still upload it into the D2L Dropbox folder on time to avoid late paper deductions.

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism is the use of someone else's thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end and a listing on the Works Cited page)—whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. All formal papers will run through the Turnitin for an originality report. At the very least, plagiarism will result in an F on the assignment; at worst, the consequence will be an F in the course. Offenders will be reported to the Chair of the Department of English, Humanities, and Philosophy and/or the Director of Student Conduct.

Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be

guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, 940-397-4140

Safe Zone Statement: The professor considers this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

Contacting Your Instructor: Email is the best way to contact me. Please note that I will not always reply over the weekend.

Attendance Policy: It is important that you attend class and arrive on time, whether in person or remotely via Zoom. If you have a total of more than two weeks' worth (TR 4 classes) of absences (excused or not) the missed instruction will make it difficult for you to excel in the class. Students who miss class will not be directly penalized, but they will miss out on opportunities for participation and explanations of assignments that could impact the final grade. If you need to miss several classes because of personal reasons, you should alert the Dean of Students office and provide them with the necessary documentation so that they can verify the situation for all of your instructors. Please see the [MSU Texas Return to Campus](#) webpage for more information should you begin to experience COVID-19 symptoms.

Writing Center: Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP) provides free drop-in tutoring for MSU students. Located on the first floor of Moffett Library, TASP's Learning Center provides tutoring support in a number of core courses and subject areas. Writing tutors are available Monday through Thursday from 11:00am to 6:00pm and Sunday 2:00pm to 9:00pm. Remember that you don't need an appointment to utilize these services.

For Distance Education students, TASP has partnered with Thinkingstorm, an online tutoring company that provides you with high-quality, 24/7 tutoring support. Located at the top of your D2L course page, select the tutoring tab to book an appointment with a tutor.

Writing Proficiency Requirement: All students seeking a Bachelor's degree from Midwestern State University must satisfy a writing proficiency requirement once they have 1) completed 6 hours of Communication Core and 2) earned 60 hours. Students may meet this requirement by passing either the Writing Proficiency Exam or English 2113. If you have any questions about the exam, visit the Writing Proficiency Office website at <https://msutexas.edu/academics/wpr/> or call 397-4131.

Campus Carry Statement: Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at MSU Texas's [Campus Carry page](#).

Daily Schedule of Readings and Assignments: See Table 1.

Table 1. Class Schedule

Please note that the schedule is subject to change at any time in the semester. Any changes will be discussed in class and posted in D2L.

WL – *Writer’s Loop*

D2L Read – The reading is posted in D2L Additional Readings module

TW – Timed Writing

FE – Formal Essay

D2L Submit – A major task is due in D2L on this day

Achieve Submit – A major task is due in Achieve on this day

Achieve Grammar – A grammar exercise is due in Achieve on this day

Achieve Reflection – A reflective journal entry is due in Achieve on this day

Week	Dates	Do This BEFORE Class	Do This IN Class
Week 1	T 1/12		Review Syllabus Introduction to the Course Fake News & Media Literacy
	R 1/14	Read: <i>WL</i> Ch 3.1 and 3.2 Understanding Writing as a Recursive Process	Discuss: Writing Process Introduce: Timed Writing (TW#1) Literacy Narrative
Week 2	T 1/19	Read: <i>WL</i> Ch 1 Being an Academic Writer	Discuss: Developing ethos Building a thesis Writing expectations Literacy Narrative examples Paragraph structure
	R 1/21	Complete: ICE#1 Plans Achieve Grammar 1: Simple and Complete Subjects	TW#1 Literacy Narrative Bring Blue Book to class

Week 3	T 1/26	<p>Read: WL Ch 5.1 & 5.2 Developing and Applying Critical Reading Strategies</p> <p>Achieve Grammar 2: Active Reading</p>	<p>Discuss & Practice: Active reading “The Space between Mourning & Grief”</p>
	R 1/28	<p>D2L Read: Warriach “#WhenDeathIsShared”</p> <p>Achieve Reflection 1</p>	<p>Practice: Active reading with Warriach article</p> <p>Introduce: Formal Essay #1 (FE#1) Reimagined Literacy Narrative – digital text</p>
Week 4	T 2/2	<p>Read: WL Ch 7 Writing for Public Digital Spaces</p> <p>Achieve Reflection 2</p>	<p>Discuss: Visual tools Social media Visual arguments</p>
	R 2/4	<p>Read: WL Ch 2 Understanding Rhetoric</p> <p>Achieve Grammar 3: Subject/Verb Agreement</p>	<p>Discuss: Five Components of Rhetoric</p> <p>Read & Discuss: Rose, “How Social Media Is Having a Positive Impact”</p>
Week 5	T 2/9	<p>D2L Submit: FE#1 Reimagined Literacy Narrative Digital Text</p> <p>Read: WL Ch 5.3 Understand Logos, Ethos, Pathos</p>	<p>Digital Text Showcase: Share FE#1</p> <p>Discuss: Logical Appeals</p>

	R 2/11	D2L Read: Carr, "Is Google Making Us Stupid?" Achieve Grammar 4: Fragments	Discuss: Rhetorical Components of Carr article
Week 6	T 2/16	Read: Ch 6 Writing Academic Arguments Achieve Reflection 3	Discuss: Argument structure Introduce: TW#2 Response Essay
	R 2/18	Write: TW#2 Plans	TW#2 Response Essay
Week 7	T 2/23	Read: <i>WL</i> Chapter 8.2 Finding and Evaluating Sources	Discuss: Finding and Evaluating Sources Introduce: FE #2 Argument Response Watch: Documentary Film TBD
	R 2/25	Achieve Grammar 5: Run-ons and Comma Splices	Discuss: Finding and evaluating sources Library Instructional Session (virtual)
Week 8	T 3/2	D2L Read: Boyd, "Inequality: Can Social Media Resolve Social Divisions" Noble, "How Search Engines Amplify Hate"	Discuss: Articles FE#2 Planning Workshop
	R 3/4	Achieve Submit: FE#2 Rough Draft	Peer Review Workshop #1

Week 9	T 3/9	D2L Submit & Achieve Submit: FE#2 Argument Response Final Draft Read: <i>WL</i> Ch 8.1 Planning Your Research	Discuss: Research questions Potential topics Review: Finding and Evaluating Sources Introduce: Research Paper Annotated Bibliography
	R 3/11	Read: 1 Source for Research Paper <i>WL</i> 9 Managing & Annotating sources Achieve Grammar 6: Commas	Discuss: Annotating sources Annotated Bib Workshop
Week 10	T 3/16	Read: <i>WL</i> Ch 11 Integrating Ideas from Sources Achieve Reflection 4	Discuss: Integrating sources Templates MLA
	R 3/18	D2L Submit: Annotated Bibliography Read: <i>WL</i> Ch 12 Tightening Your Argument Achieve Grammar 7: Apostrophes	Research Workshop – from research to drafting
Week 11	T 3/23	Write: Research paper outline/rough Draft	NO CLASS – Schedule Instructor Conference (Zoom or BW 220)
	R 3/25	Achieve Grammar 8 & 9: Quotation Marks MLA	

Week 12	T 3/29	Achieve Submit: Research Paper Rough Draft	Peer Review Workshop
	R 4/1	NO CLASS EASTER HOLIDAY	
Week 13	T 4/6	D2L and Achieve Submit: Research Paper Final Draft Read: WL Ch 13 Pulling It All Together	Discuss: Portfolio Project Opening Statement
	R 4/8	Achieve Reflection 5	Portfolio Workshop
Week 14	T 4/13	Achieve Grammar 10: Pronouns	Portfolio Workshop
	R 4/15		Portfolio Workshop
Week 15 Last day to drop with a "W" 4/23	T 4/20	D2L Submit: Portfolio Project	Digital Showcase
	R 4/22		Final Exam Prep
Final	TUESDAY, 4/27 10:30AM-12:30PM LOCATION: TBD		