

College Connections MWSU 1233
MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
FALL SEMESTER 2022

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Office Hours: TBA- If my door is open,
come in or make an appointment via email.
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Course: MWSU 1233
Course Title: College Connections
Class Time: T/TR 8:00 am -9:20 am
T/TR 9:30 am – 10:50 am
T/TR 12:30 pm – 1:50 pm
Class Location: 113 G Moffett Library

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.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will increase their **academic knowledge** in the following areas: note-taking, test taking, studying, reading, research, critical thinking, learning strategies, time management, academic advising/planning, communication skills, and intellectual discourse.

Learning Outcome: Evidenced by participation in class exercises and assignments including a time management study, implementation of a daily planner, D2L/Portal, lecture notes, research project, team project/presentations, and a final exam.

2. Students will increase their **university knowledge** in the following areas: traditions, campus resources and facilities, Moffett Library, MSU policies, procedures, and regulations, and cultural experiences.

Learning Outcome: Evidenced by attendance of campus events/activities and reporting their experience, class discussions and speakers, library tour, health & wellness center tour, and a visit with the Career Management Center.

3. Students will increase their skill for living in the following areas: transition in to college, relationships, values, awareness, health & wellness, goal setting, and diversity.

Learning Outcome: Evidenced by journal entries, goal setting, career research project/presentation, group interaction, and positive participation in class.

Required Texts:

- *Your College Experience: Strategies for Success* 14th Ed. by John Gardner & Betsy Barefoot
- Common Read Book: *Old School Grit* by Darrin Donnelly

Required Course Materials:

- Adventure Guide (Will be used as a planner and will be provided by the University.)
- GroupMe Account (Mobile App)

Attendance:

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY! Students are required to attend all class meetings and attendance is documented at the beginning of each class period. Attendance and class participation are deemed essential. Students are advised to plan carefully regarding appointments and/or work schedules to avoid missing class. Each student is allowed up to 3 absences to deal with any emergency which might occur throughout the semester. Any student who misses more than 3 classes will have their letter grade dropped by 1 letter at the end of the semester no matter how many points the student has earned. An additional letter grade will then be dropped for each absence following 4. 4 absences= 1 letter grade, 5= 2 letter grades, 6= 3 letter grades, 7= 4 letter grades. Students are required to keep track of their own attendance and are responsible for knowing how many absences they have incurred. A student that arrives to class 25 or more minutes late will be counted as absent.

Some assignments are experiential in nature and are only completed in class. If a student is absent from class on the day when one of these assignments are completed in class, they will automatically forfeit any points which might have been earned for the assignment. Personal emergencies that arise will be dealt with on an individual basis. Emergencies that result in a student missing multiple classes should be reported to the instructor and the Dean of Students Office.

Classroom Behavior:

As adults, students are expected to behave in a respectful manner. Disrespect, an indifferent attitude, and/or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and could result in the student being dropped from the course with a grade of F AND referral to the Dean of Students Office. In life there is a time and a place for everything and that same rule applies to the classroom. We will have interactive classroom discussions and activities and the utmost respect must be followed at all times.

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, sexuality, class and religion. We strive to create an environment that celebrates differences, respects diversity, provides equity for opportunities, and fulfills the potential of everyone.

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.

Cell Phones:

Put them away unless asked by the instructor to use them for a class exercise. Students may be asked to leave class if cell phone use continues after being asked to put them away.

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

5 events x 20 points each

100 Points

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

4 assignments x 25 points each

100 Points

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

4 checks x 25 points each

100 Points

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

4 quizzes x 25 points each

100 Points

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

4 assignments x 25 points each

100 Points

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

Save Act Assignment

1 survey x 100 points

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

1 project x 200 Points

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

1 exam x 100 points

100

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

Class Participation

100 Points