

Intermediate Composition & Grammar

ENGL 2113 Spring 2024 Syllabus

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Email is the best way to reach me.

OFFICE HOURS

M/W, 10 a.m. - noon; TR, 11 a.m. - noon; and by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of the course is to develop students' skills in clear and effective composition and standard usage of the English language. In English 2113, students compose, convincingly support, and polish persuasive, thesis-driven essays. The course can be used to satisfy the Writing Proficiency Requirement.

PREREQUISITES: Completion of the Communication Core

COURSE GOALS

In this course, students will

- write thesis-based essays that provide strong support and specific details
- engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, and revision
- demonstrate critical and creative thinking about a timely issue or debatable topic
- demonstrate proficient use of Standard Written English

PROCTORED EXAM

There is a mandatory proctored two-part final exam at the end of the semester: a grammar exam and an essay. You will have three hours to complete both parts of the exam. The exam will use the Respondus Lockdown Browser on D2L. You will need to have access to a computer with a video camera in order to take the exam.

GRADING FOR THE COURSE

Writing assignments (40%): Writing assignments will be marked with instructor's comments, and the grade assigned will reflect overall demonstration of the skills outlined above.

Discussion Board Posts (10%): As assigned on D2L

Quizzes (10%): Ten quizzes will help develop your understanding of specific writing issues and provide you with practice for the final exam. Because the quizzes are meant to help you practice skills rather than to test you on what you already know, for each quiz that you attempt, you will receive a completion grade of 1 point regardless of your actual quiz score. I will manually change the point score after the deadline for each quiz.

Final exam (40%): The final exam will consist of two parts: (1) a grammar exam (20%), and (2) a thesis-driven essay (20%).

All assignments will be due on dates assigned. **No late work will be accepted** unless specific arrangements have been made prior to the due date. Students falling two assignments behind are subject to administrative withdrawal from the course by the instructor.

Numerical scores translate to letter grades as follows: 100 - 90% = A; 89.9 - 80% = B; 79.9 - 70% = C; 69.9 - 60% = D; < 60% = F

POLICIES

Academic Honesty:

All students are expected to adhere to the Midwestern State University Student Honor Creed when completing any work for this course. A student's name on any assignment scheduled to be turned in is his/her pledge that all work contained therein is his/hers alone. When using the ideas of other unpublished and published sources, students must use accepted documentation conventions (for this course, MLA). See the MSU Student Handbook to read the Student Honor Creed and the university's policy on academic dishonesty. A student may fail the course for committing acts of academic dishonesty, which include (but are not limited to) plagiarism and cheating.

→ **A Special Note about the Use of Artificial Intelligence in this class:**

You should not use any AI to create or compose any of your work for the class at any stage of the assignments – not in the drafting stage or in the revising stage. I expect your work to be completely your own. Turnitin has an AI program that detects the underlying code of a document that comes from an AI producing program. I will use this program. Essays that are found to contain AI may receive a zero grade. Programs that use AI include (but are not limited to) ChatGPT, Wordtune, and Grammarly and should not be used in our class.

Student Access:

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:

I consider this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender identity, 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 my expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

Contacting Your Instructor:

Feel free to contact me either via phone or email. Email is generally a faster way to reach me. Please understand that I will respond on the next business day if you contact me on weekends or after hours.

Syllabus updated 1/2024

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Jan. 16-21

1. Review syllabus and course schedule
2. Read University Academic Dishonesty Policy, page 71 in the link in the Materials for the First Week of Class folder, and the information at the link “Avoiding Plagiarism.” (These are very important to your success in this class, so pay close attention to both readings and apply this information to your work this semester.)

3. Complete the **Pre-Test**

Week 2: Jan. 22-28

1. Post your personal introduction on the Discussion Board (**DB1**)
2. Complete Quiz 1 Unit & Test: Subject and Verb Identification
3. Watch Videos on Thesis Statements and Topic Sentences
4. Read Assignment for W1 and associated articles.

Week 3: Jan. 29-Feb. 4

1. Complete Q2 Unit & Test: Phrases, Clauses, and Fragments
2. Watch Topic Sentence Video
3. Watch Moffett Library playlist videos

Week 4: Feb. 5-11

1. Submit **W1** in Dropbox in D2L
2. Complete Q3 Unit & Test: Comma Splices and Fused Sentences

Week 5: Feb. 12-18

1. Review W2 Assignment
2. Complete Q4 Unit & Test: Subject/Verb Agreement
3. Watch MLA videos

Week 6: Feb. 19-25

1. Post **DB2** on Discussion Board (see D2L for instructions & prompt)
2. Work on W2
3. Complete Q5 Unit & Test: Pronoun Agreement

Week 7: Feb. 26-Mar. 3

1. Submit **W2**
2. Complete Q6 Unit & Test: Pronoun Case

Week 8: Mar. 4-10

1. Complete Q7 Unit & Test: Commas
2. Review W3 Assignment and Work on W3

Week 9: Mar. 11-17

Spring Break, no coursework

Week 10: Mar. 18-24

1. Complete Q8 Unit & Test: Colons and Semicolons
2. Work on W3

Week 11: Mar. 25-31

1. Submit **DB3** into Discussion Board (see instructions and prompt on D2L)
2. Holiday Break: March 28-31

Week 12: Apr. 1-7

1. Complete Q9 Unit & Test: Parallelism
2. Submit **W3**

Week 13: Apr. 8-14

1. Complete Q10 Unit & Test: Apostrophes
2. Optional individual conferences with instructor

Weeks 14-15: Apr. 15-28

Review for Final

Week 16: Apr. 29 & 30

Take the Two-Part **Final Exam**.

Monday, **April 29**, 6 a.m. through Tuesday, **April 30**, 11:59 p.m.

Both tests will be available on both days. You may take them separately or one after the other.

Finals Week

Final grades will be available on D2L by Wednesday.