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Intermediate Composition & Grammar

ENGL 2113x21, Spring 2024

Syllabus

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.

Course goals: 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

Prerequisites: Completion of the Communication Core

Final Exam: You will complete a two-part final at the semester's end (a grammar exam and an essay exam). We will use Respondus/Lockdown browser to monitor the exam. A Chromebook is not compatible with Respondus/Lockdown browser, and you will need access to a webcam.

Required texts: A textbook is NOT required for this course, but a style handbook such as *The Little, Brown Handbook* can be helpful and will be referenced in the course materials. (Style guides are readily available used on sites like abe.com and [amazon](http://amazon.com). And they shouldn't cost more than \$5 or so.)

Required software: All compositional assignments must be submitted as Word Documents and uploaded to D2L.

Assignments:

Quizzes (10%): There are ten quizzes. Before taking a quiz, read the associated material posted on the quiz topic in D2L. Quizzes must be taken during the week assigned (i.e., no make-up quizzes). If you take the quiz, you will receive a grade of "1 point," no matter your posted score on the quiz. Your final grammar exam will be based on these quizzes and will count heavily, so don't take the quizzes lightly! The week's quizzes are open 5 a.m. on Monday until 11 p.m. on the following Sunday.

Writing assignments (50%): You have five writing assignments: a simple thesis and topic sentence assignment (W1); an assignment in which you submit two body paragraphs (W2); and three complete essays (W3, W4, W5).

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

Late assignment policy: All assignments are due on the 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.

Mid-term Grades: In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, I will provide a Midterm Progress Report. These midterm averages will not be reported on a students' transcripts. They will simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should schedule a meeting with me.

Acceptable submission format and process: All formal writing assignments submitted for grading must conform to the *Writing and Formatting Your Essay* and *Essay Grading Guidelines* documents posted to D2L. Assignments are to be submitted to the Dropbox folders in the course D2L website.

Table 1 Grading Scale

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

Required contact: Students are required to interact with the instructor within the D2L course management system at regular intervals during the semester or term. By completing your weekly quiz on time and submitting assignments on time, you will meet this requirement. Any student who fails to interact with an instructor via D2L, telephone, email, or in person during any one-week period of the term may be subject to administrative withdrawal from the course by the instructor.

Academic dishonesty: 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. (And of course, that means that you didn't copy and paste from the internet or use an AI generator when composing your paper.) When using the ideas of other unpublished and published sources, students must use accepted MLA documentation conventions. See the

MSU Student Handbook (attached to D2L course web site) to read the Student Honor Creed and the university's policy on academic dishonesty.

Professionalism: Members of this class are expected to treat one another with courtesy, professionalism, and respect. Repeated unprofessional, rude, or inappropriate behavior can result in 50-100 points being deducted from a student's final grade for the course per instance of such behavior.

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.

