

# Introduction to Critical Reading and Academic Writing

ENGL 1143-X30 Summer I 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 1143, students will read essays, consider context, compose, convincingly support, and polish persuasive, thesis-driven essays.

### Course Objectives:

- 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

### Final Exam:

There is a two-part final exam at the end of the semester: a grammar exam(10%) and a Self-Evaluation Letter(10%).. You will have one hour to complete the grammar exam. The Letter can be composed on your own time, but it needs to be uploaded after the completion of the grammar exam.

### Weekly Assignments:

Quizzes (20%):

There are ten grammar quizzes and eight reading quizzes. Before taking a quiz, review all the material posted on the quiz topic in D2L or read the associated essay. Quizzes must be taken during the week assigned (i.e., no make-up quizzes). Your final grammar exam will be based on these quizzes, so don't take the quizzes lightly! The week's quizzes are open 5a.m. on Monday until 11p.m. on Sunday of the same week.

Writing assignments (60%):

Select one of the two available topics on D2L

- (W1) & (W4) a thesis and topic sentences for two supporting paragraphs (10%)
- (W2) & (W5) two body paragraphs based on W1 & W4, respectively (20%)
- (W3) & (W6) complete essays based on W1 and W2, W4 and W5, respectively. (30%)

**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.

**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.

### 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. Note: all assignments will be screened by TurnItIn.com software that includes AI detection. When using the ideas of other unpublished and published sources, students must use accepted documentation conventions (i.e., MLA or APA). 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.

**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.

**Table 1: Weekly Assignment Schedule**

Week	Readings and Assignments
<p>Week One</p> <p>Monday, June 3</p>	<p>Read in D2L, under Content, Introduction to the Course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Syllabus</li> <li>• Assignment schedule (this document)</li> <li>• <i>MSU Student Handbook</i>. Read the university plagiarism policies.</li> </ul> <p>Read in D2L:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “What’s Your Name, Girl,” “On Dumpster Diving,” “Our Wall,” and “Me Talk Pretty One Day.” Content&gt;Essays</li> <li>• W1, W2, W3 assignment descriptions (W1 is due on Wednesday of this week, June 5, and W2 is due on Sunday of this week, June 9.) Content&gt; Writing Assignments</li> <li>• The <i>W1 template</i>: this is the format you should follow for the W1 assignment.</li> <li>• <i>Writing and Formatting Your Essay</i>, which shows how to construct each part of a complete essay. (Your first complete essay will be the W3 assignment.)</li> <li>• <i>Essay Grading Guidelines</i>, which explains how your assignments will be graded.</li> <li>• Look over the Quiz modules and Grammar Practice Resources</li> </ul> <p>Review in the <i>Little Brown Brief</i> (LBB):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 1 Ch. 1-6 The Writing Process</li> <li>• Ch. 11 Academic Writing</li> <li>• Refer to Purdue Owl for <a href="#">APA</a> and <a href="#">MLA</a> formatting.</li> </ul> <p>To prepare for weekly grammar quizzes, review the modules in the D2L and the following chapters in LBB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 21 Parts of Speech</li> <li>• Ch. 22 The Sentence</li> <li>• Ch. 23 Phrases and Subordinate Clauses</li> <li>• Ch. 35 Sentence Fragments</li> <li>• Ch. 36 Comma Splices and Fused Sentences</li> </ul> <p><b>Complete:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• D2L Discussion Board posting: by 6/7, introduce yourself to class</li> <li>• Pretest by 6/5, before 11:00p.m. (Your score will not be included in your final grade.) On the D2L Menu, click <b>Tests&gt;Pretest</b></li> <li>• Quizzes 1-3 open on 6/3 at 5:00 a.m. and close on 6/9 at 11p.m.</li> <li>• Reading quizzes for all four essays</li> <li>• W1 (Thesis statement and 2 topic sentences) Upload to Dropbox by Wed. 6/7, before 11:00p.m.</li> <li>• W2 (Thesis sentence, two body paragraphs, and reference page) Upload to Dropbox by Sun. 6/9, before 11:00p.m.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

Week	Readings and Assignments
<p>Week 2 Monday, June 10</p>	<p>Read in D2L under Content, Writing Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Writing and Formatting Your Essay</i></li> <li>• <i>Essay Grading Guidelines</i></li> </ul> <p>Review in LBB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 5 Revising</li> <li>• Ch. 7 Paragraphs (especially introductions and conclusions)</li> <li>• Ch. 12 Writing Arguments</li> </ul> <p>To prepare for weekly grammar quizzes, review the modules in the D2L and the following chapters in LBB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 25 Verb Forms</li> <li>• Ch. 29 Agreement of Subject and Verb</li> <li>• Ch. 31 Agreement of Pronoun and Antecedent</li> <li>• Ch. 32 Reference of Pronoun and Antecedent</li> </ul> <p><b>Complete:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quizzes 4-6 open 6/10 at 5:00 a.m. and close 6/16 at 11p.m.)</li> <li>• W3 (A complete essay which builds on assignments W1 and W2: introductory paragraph, body paragraphs, concluding paragraph, and reference page) Sunday, June 16 before 11p.m.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 3 Monday, June 17</p> <p>June 26, 2024</p> <p>Last Day for “W”, 4:00 p.m. – Drops after this date will receive grades of “F.”</p>	<p>Read in D2L under Content&gt;Essays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Weasel Words,” “Small Change,” “The Problem with Self-Esteem,” and “What Isn’t For Sale.”</li> </ul> <p>Review in LBB:</p> <p>Under Section 6 Spelling and Mechanics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 43 Quotation Marks</li> <li>• Ch. 54 Avoiding Plagiarism</li> <li>• Ch. 52 Finding Sources</li> <li>• Ch. 53 Working with Sources</li> <li>• Ch. 56 MLA or Ch. 57 APA</li> </ul> <p>To prepare for weekly grammar quizzes, review the modules in the D2L and the following chapters in LBB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 39 The Comma</li> <li>• Ch. 40 The Semicolon</li> <li>• Ch. 41 The Colon</li> </ul> <p><b>Complete:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quizzes 7-8 open 6/17 at 5:00 a.m. and close 6/23 at 11p.m.</li> <li>• Quizzes for all four assigned essays</li> <li>• W4 (just like W1), due 6/19 by 11:00 p.m.</li> <li>• W5 (just like W2) due 6/23, before 11p.m.</li> </ul>

Week	Readings and Assignments
Week 4 Monday, June 24	Read in LBB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 18 Appropriate and Exact Words</li> <li>• Ch. 20 Conciseness</li> </ul> To prepare for weekly grammar quizzes, review the modules in the D2L under content, and read the following chapters in LBB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 16 Parallelism</li> <li>• Ch. 42 The Apostrophe</li> </ul> <b>Complete:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quizzes 9-10 open 6/24 at 5:00 a.m. and close 6/30 at 11p.m.</li> <li>• W6 (just like W3) A complete essay on the new topic, due <u>6/30</u> before 11p.m.</li> </ul>
Week 5 Monday July 1	Review in D2L under Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-take Grammar pre-test for practice</li> </ul> <b>Complete Final Exam (grammar and self-evaluation letter):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The final grammar exam must be completed online on 7/5, between 5:00 a.m. until 11:59 p.m. Upload your Self-Evaluation Letter after you have completed the grammar final.</li> </ul>