



ENGL 5043-X10: Introduction to Graduate English Studies

Fall 2025 (Aug. 25 to Dec. 12)

Class meets in Zoom each Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 7:00 pm (Central Time)

Syllabus & Schedule

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. John Schulze

Office: PY 212

Office hours: We can visit in person, by phone, or through Zoom.

MWF 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. (BW 212)

TR 10:00 – 12:30 p.m. (BW 214)

Other times by appointment

E-mail: john.schulze@msutexas.edu

Important Dates

- [Academic Calendar](#)
- Last Day to drop with a grade of “W”: **Mon. Nov. 25, 2024** before 4:00 pm (See: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#))
- [Graduate School Fall Calendar Fall 2025](#)
- [Final exam schedule for Fall 2025](#)

Course Description

Introduces students to the key scholarly conversations in English Studies as well as the primary forms of academic research and scholarly writing in the discipline. This course should be taken in the first year of coursework.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

- Plan and conduct, with faculty guidance, graduate-level research projects, which will include a working knowledge of the resources of the MSU library
- Write clearly and persuasively in accordance with conventions of formal writing in the field
- Compose key professional documents such as a personal statement, conference proposal, book review, annotated bibliography, and résumé/CV
- Discuss trends in curricula, ideology, pedagogy, and publication in the fields of literature, rhetoric and writing, creative writing, and technical and professional communication
- Identify career paths available to graduates with an MA/MS in English

Required Textbook

- *Introducing English Studies*. By Krouse and O’Callaghan. Publisher: Bloomsbury Academic
 - ISBN-13: 9781350055407
 - DIGITAL ISBN-13: 9781350055421
 - ISBN-10: 1350055409

- *MLA Handbook*, ninth edition: available MSU library A-Z database, or if on campus <https://mlahandbookplus.org/> : It should show “Midwestern State University Library” in the top right.
- Other readings will be made available in D2L.

Resources

- [MSU English Online Graduate Programs](#)
- Moffett Library: Log into D2L. On menu/toolbar at the top of the page, click **More > Library**
- [Graduate Student Resources](#)
- [Graduate School Handbook](#)

Required technology

A computer or laptop with a webcam and access to the Internet.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L course management system is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information.

- Login to D2L from the [MSU homepage](#): On the MSU home page menu, click Login, and choose either myMSUTexas or D2L.
- [D2L Login Instructions](#) (See bottom of the page for steps to follow if you have trouble logging in.)
- [Student D2L Aids](#) for helpful tips and how-to guides.

Instructor Response Policy

I will respond to emails within 24 hours on weekdays, and within 48 hours on weekends and holidays. I typically grade and return assignments within one week following the due date.

Grading/Assessment

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Statement of Purpose*	5
Citation assignment	5
CV/Résumé *	5
Annotated bibliography	20
Literature review	35
Discussion posts	20
Final presentation	10
Total Possible Points	100

* These assignments will be submitted as an initial draft at the beginning of the semester, and resubmitted at the end of the semester for a final grade.

Table 2: Total points for final grade

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

University and Course Policies and Procedures

Conduct

Members of this class are expected to treat one another with courtesy, professionalism, and respect.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend the weekly Zoom meetings on Wednesday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. (Central)

University Academic Dishonesty Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty is defined as “Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual’s to whom credit is given).” Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the [Student Handbook](#), under Academic Dishonesty Procedure or through the [Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#).

Class Academic Dishonesty Policy Details and Advice

- **Ask for help:** First, and importantly, as the instructor of this course, I am available to assist you with any questions you have about the use and citation of sources. Just contact me several days before the assignment is due with a link to the source so that I have time to look over the article and adequate time to meet with you to discuss your concerns or need for assistance.
- **Provide Instructor access to sources used in assignments:** All sources cited in an assignment must be available, accessible online for me, the instructor, to review as I grade your assignments. Simply provide a working link (URL) to the complete article at the end of each Reference or Works Cited entry at the end of the document, or upload the article to the dropbox for the submission. A link to an abstract or to an online database which has a paywall won’t work: I need to be able to read the entire article, just as you did.
- **Accurately cite sources:** When using the ideas of other published and/or unpublished sources, students must use accepted documentation conventions (i.e., MLA). All quoted content must be placed in “quotation marks,” and for quoted, paraphrased, and summarized content, the correct source must be cited in the text. Stating, “I meant to put the text in quotation marks but forgot to do so,” “I cited the name of the source but forgot the quotation marks,” or “I cited the wrong source” are not acceptable explanations for inaccurately citing sources.
- **Don’t use AI:** Generally speaking, you are not allowed to use artificial intelligence (AI) engines, software, or artwork generating programs to produce content submitted for grading in this class UNLESS the assignment instructions specifically call for the use of AI. I will provide more information about any specific assignment that involves the use of AI when the time is appropriate in the course. You may not, however, construe this limited use as permission to use these technologies in any other facet of this course.
- **Be aware of the penalty:** Please don't allow inaccurate use and citing of sources to negatively impact your grade. Doing so will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. If this happens twice, you will receive a grade of “F” for the course. According the MSU Graduate Catalog, “A grade of F given for academic dishonesty will be computed in the grade point average even if permission is granted for the course to be repeated. Additional college and program policies regarding academic dishonesty will apply” ([2024-2025 Graduate Catalog, Admissions & Academic Information, Academic Dishonesty](#)).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate

services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Information on the University's policy may be found at [Campus Carry at MSU Texas](#).

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the [MSU Catalog Appeal of Course Grade](#)

Course Schedule

Notice: Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

KO = Readings from *Introducing English Studies* by Krouse & O'Callagan, with chapter number or title.

MLA Handbook, Ninth edition: <https://mlahandbookplus.org/>

Table 3: ***Tentative Readings and Assignments***

Week	Readings and Assignments
Week One Wed. Aug. 27	Introduction of class members Review: • Course syllabus and assignment schedule • Graduate College resources • English graduate program requirements and resources • English graduate courses and dual-listed courses Discuss: • Statement of purpose draft assignment Due: • Statement of Purpose Draft, upload to dropbox by next Tues. Sept. 2, 11:30 p.m. • Discussion Post One, Tues., Sept 2, 11:30 p.m.
Week Two Wed. Sept. 3	Read prior to class: • KO: Acknowledgements, Introduction • KO: Briefly review the 10 English Studies chapters (i.e., History of the English Language thru English Studies in the Digital Age). ◦ Select two study/topic areas that most interest you. Discuss: • The two English Studies topic areas that most interest you for developing into a course project. • Citation assignment instructions. • Accessing library resources including <i>MLA Handbook</i> ninth edition, and how to use Interlibrary Loan. • Purdue Owl MLA Formatting and Style Guide
Week Three Wed. Sept. 10	Read prior to class: KO 1. History of the English Language Guest Lecture: MSU Library

Week	Readings and Assignments
	Due: Citation Assignment, upload to dropbox by next Tues. Sep. 16, 11:30 p.m.
Week Four Wed. Sept. 17	Read prior to class: KO 2. Linguistics Discuss: Difference between an annotated bibliography and a literature review
Week Five Wed. Sept. 24	Read prior to class: KO 3. Literature Discuss: Annotated Bibliography assignment
Week Six Wed. Oct. 1	Read prior to class: KO 8. Critical Theory
Week Seven Wed. Oct. 8	Read prior to class: KO 5. Rhetoric & Composition
Week Eight Wed. Oct. 15	Read prior to class: KO 6. Creative Writing Due: Annotated Bibliography, upload to dropbox by next Tues. Oct. 21, 11:30 p.m.
Week Nine Wed. Oct. 22	Read prior to class: - KO 7. Professional Writing, TC, and Design Discuss: - Literature Review assignment - Document design principles - CV/Resume draft assignment and design principles Due: Upload a draft of your CV/ Résumé assignment to dropbox by Tues. Oct. 28, by 11:30 p.m.
Week Ten Wed. Oct. 29	Read prior to class: KO 9 English Education Discuss: - Résumé feedback - Literature Review assignment
Week Eleven Wed. Nov. 5	Read prior to class: KO 4. Cinema, Popular Culture, and New Media Discuss: Literature Review assignment: questions, difficulties Due: Final draft of CV Résumé draft, upload to dropbox by next Tues. Nov. 11, 11:30 p.m.
Week Twelve Wed. Nov. 12	Read prior to class: KO 10 English Studies in the Digital Age Discuss: Literature Review assignment: questions, difficulties Due: Literature Review upload to the dropbox by next Tues. Nov. 18, 11:30 p.m.
Week Thirteen Wed. Nov. 19	Discuss: - Slideshow presentation instructions - Review principles of document design as they apply to slides

Week	Readings and Assignments
Last day for "W"	Mon. Nov. 24, before 4:00 p.m. Last day to withdraw from/drop a course. Drops after this date will receive grades of "F."
Week Fourteen Wed. Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Holiday no classes Wed. thru Fri.	No class on Wed. Due: Draft of slideshow presentation for initial feedback, upload to the dropbox by next Mon. Dec 1, 11:30 p.m.
Week Fifteen Wed. Dec 3 Last week of classes	Discuss: - Feedback on slideshow drafts - Wrapping up the course Due: - Final Statement of Purpose, upload to the dropbox by next Fri., Dec. 5, 11:30 p.m. Final Slideshow, upload to the dropbox by next Tues., Dec. 9 , 11:30 p.m.,
Week Sixteen Wed. Dec. 10 Finals Week	Final presentations in class Wed. Dec. 10, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.