

COUN 2143 G30- Human Experiences
Berlin Study Abroad
Summer I 2026
June 4, 2026- June 24, 2026
Midwestern State University
Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education

Instructor/Contact Information:

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Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Instructor Response Policy

The best way to contact me is via email. I will check my email between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00 PM Mon-Fri. I will attempt to contact you within 24 hours; however, this does not apply on weekends or holidays. Once you contact me via email, we can then set up a virtual or phone meeting, depending on your needs. The course also has a What's App contact and that will be available as well.

Course Description

A study of perspectives shaped by individual, family, and community experiences, incorporating inquiry and research to deepen understanding.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

All materials will be provided in D2L

Core Content, Objectives, and Core Skill

| Objectives | Learning Activities |
|---|---|
| Students analyze research on how individual, family, and community experiences shape perspectives and influence human interactions. | Perspective Analysis Paper; course activities |
| Students Evaluate research of varying viewpoints by applying course concepts to real-world media, narratives, and case studies. | Perspective Analysis Paper; course activities |

| Objectives | Learning Activities |
|--|---|
| Students Develop critical thinking and inquiry skills to interpret the motivations, values, and societal influences behind varying perspectives. | Perspective Analysis Paper; course activities |
| Students Reflect on and interpret research to gain insights into human interaction and relationships. | Perspective Analysis Paper; course activities |
| Students Synthesize insights gained from perspective analysis to deepen awareness of the complexities of human experiences and interactions. | Perspective Analysis Paper; course activities |

Grading

| Assignments | Points |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Class Activities (5@10 points each) | 50 |
| Excursion Journal (10@10 points each) | 100 |
| Excursion Leader | 10 |
| Perspective Analysis Paper | 68 |
| Total Points | 228 |

Percentage of total points for final grade.

| Grade | Percent |
|-------|----------------|
| A | 90% or Greater |
| B | 80% to 89.9% |
| C | 70% to 79.9% |
| D | 60% to 69.9% |
| F | Less than 60% |

Assignments

Class Activities

The class will feature five formal learning activities worth ten points each that will

strengthen your understanding of the human experience. Specifics of each activity will be discussed further in class. These are in class activities and grades will be based on observation and participation. You must be in attendance to receive points as there will be no way to make these up outside of class.

Perspective Analysis Paper

The Perspective Analysis Paper is the major assignment for the course. The purpose of the paper is to help you develop a deeper understanding of how individual, family, and community experiences shape individual perspectives. Through critical analysis of real-world media, narratives, or case studies, you will reflect on differing perspectives and apply course concepts to evaluate the factors influencing these perspectives. Further instructions are available on D2L.

Excursion Journal

Students will complete excursion journal prompts that will form the basis for class discussions. Prompts are available on D2L and students are expected to respond to each prompt thoroughly. There are a total of 10.

Excursion Guide

Students will select an excursion that they will research and then lead. Students will be expected to provide background information, highlights and transportation details for the excursion they select.

Instructor Class Policies

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment which is conducive to learning. Inappropriate behavior in classroom (online or face-to-face) shall result, minimally, in a request to drop the class or the student may receive an instructor drop with an "F" for the course.

Attendance

Attendance is expected at all class meetings (class sessions and field trips) and you are expected to be on time when class begins. Leaving class early without prior permission will result in your being counted absent for the class session. For each class missed you will be dropped a letter grade. Students must contact the program coordinator and instructor if there are extreme extenuating circumstances outside of the student's control, such as an illness or hospitalization, that will prevent a student from attending class. If a student will miss more than a quarter of the classes, the student will need to drop.

Late Work

Assignments are due by 11:59 PM of the date listed on the calendar. Assignments are expected to be turned in by the due date. Any work submitted after the deadline on the calendar will be docked up to 50%. It is your responsibility to keep up with when assignments are due in the syllabus calendar. Arrangements must be made at least two days in advance for any exceptions to be given. Any in class activity that is missed can not be made up.

Written Work

All written work should be completed in a professional style. Using correct spelling and grammar are important writing skills you must know well because your students will learn from you. Therefore, all written assignments will have 10% -20% of the grade based on spelling and grammar. Expectations are for quality work.

Computer Requirements

This class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ****Assignments are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings. *Computer issues are not an excuse for missing a deadline.*** Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however, they are able to help you be connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for failure to participate, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to dropping the from the class. An instructor's drop of a student takes precedence over the student- initiated course drop of a later date. The instructor will assign a grade of either WF or F through the first 8 weeks of a long semester, the first 6 weeks of a 10 week summer term, or the 11th class day of a 4 or 5 week summer term consisting of 20 days. After these periods the grade will be an F. The date the instructor drop form is received in the Office of the Registrar is the official drop date.

Plagiarism

"By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a 'limited right' in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The 'limited right' shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality, authenticity, and educational purposes." from [Student Handbook](#) . All assignments submitted in BRIGHTSPACE will also be checked through Turn It In for originality. Assignments with more than 50% match will be given a 0.

Please note: By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a “limited right” in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The “limited right” shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student’s work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes.

Acceptable Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools

AI is an amazing tool and can be a powerful reference and resource; however, it should be used as a reference/resource only. Passing another person or entity’s work off as your own is dishonest and can also prevent you from properly learning the material you should in this course. Therefore, using AI to compose/create your assignments for you will not be tolerated. Assignments in which the professor suspects the majority was composed by AI will receive a zero. If a student receives a zero, the student may resubmit the work, revised in their own writing for half credit. The following are acceptable ways to use AI in this course but a citation must be provided to give credit to the AI program used: providing you an example answer to a question (put answer into your own words), give you a template or provide you a format to follow, assist with wording difficult concepts (then put into your own words for your assignment), researching topics to give you additional information or other viewpoints on a topic, or ideas for lesson activities.

MSU-TEXAS Policies and Procedures

[Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures

Academic Dishonesty:

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 [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a

portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request). For specific information and information regarding financial aid policies, contact the MSU business office.

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 go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "*Run. Hide. Fight.*" which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: "*Run. Hide. Fight.*"

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with

resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick
Title IX Coordinator
Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse
940-397-4213
laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 at [this online reporting link](#).

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit the [MSU Title IX Website](#).

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

References

In the event any of the links above do not work, copy and paste the address into your browser:

MSU Campus Carry Policies- <https://msutexas.edu/campus-carry/>
MSU Catalog- <https://msutexas.edu/registrar/catalog/>
MSU D2L- <https://d2l.msutexas.edu/>
MSU Disability Support Services- <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/disability/>
MSU Office of Student Conduct- <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/conduct/>
MSU Student Handbook- https://msutexas.edu/student-life/_assets/files/handbook.pdf
MSU Title IX Website- <https://msutexas.edu/titleix/>

MSU Title IX Reporting Link-

https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout_id=6

Course Calendar

| Class Day | Topics/Assignments | Due Date for assignments listed. |
|-----------|--|----------------------------------|
| 6/8 | Socialization & National Identity Class Activity 1 Deutschland Museum | 6/8 |
| 6/9 | Power, Status, and Respect Charlottenburg Palace Class Activity 2 | 6/9 |
| 6/10 | Representation & Identity Museum Island | 6/10 |
| 6/11 | Global Decisions & Human Impact Potsdam | 6/11 |
| 6/12-6/14 | Szczecin Poland Excursion | 6/12-6/14 |
| 6/15 | Systems and Everyday Life DDR Museum Abstract Memory, Emotion, and Interpretation | 6/15 |
| 6/16 | Responsibility, and Historical Reality Sachsenhausen Class Activity 3 | 6/16 |
| 6/17 | Division, Control, and Freedom Berlin Wall | 6/17 |
| 6/18 | Identity and Expression Class Activity 4 Kreuzberg Neighborhood | 6/18 |
| 6/22 | Class Activity 5 In- Class Presentations Perspective Analysis Paper due by 11:59PM to the D2L dropbox | 6/22 |

Notice:

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. This calendar and syllabus are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. In the event that an update must occur, the newest version will be posted on D2L in the Read Me First tab and a News item will notify students.

Note: Ideas and opinions expressed in course materials are those of the respective authors and do not imply endorsement by the professor or university.

Appendix A

Inclement Weather: We will have class and excursions regardless of weather conditions; however, if there is an unforeseen circumstance that causes a delay or a cancellation, the study abroad coordinator or instructor will reach out to you via email, D2L or the course What's App for updates.