



**MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**A Member of the Texas Tech University System**

**Course Syllabus: Human Diversity**  
**Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education**  
**COUN 2143 Section X14/DX3**

### **Contact Information**

**Instructor:** Dr. Dittika Gupta

**Office:** Bridwell 220

**Office hours:** Virtual Office Hours - Monday 10:00-11:30am, Tuesday 10:00am-12:00pm, and Wednesday 10:00am-11:30am. I am also happy to meet outside of office hours if there is a need. Don't hesitate to contact me to find a convenient time for both of us.

**Office phone:** 940-397-4269

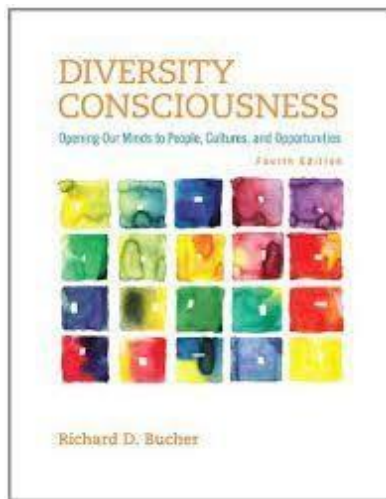
**E-mail:** [dittika.gupta@msutexas.edu](mailto:dittika.gupta@msutexas.edu)

### **Instructor Response Policy**

The best way to contact me is through email. I will try my best to answer all emails within 24 hours, however you will definitely get a response within 48 hours (2 business days). Any emails or texts received during weekends will receive a response the following Monday.

### **Textbook & Instructional Materials**

Bucher, R. D. (2015). *Diversity Consciousness* (4th Ed.). New York: Pearson. (You can rent or purchase this from the MSU Bookstore.)



## **Course Description**

A study of individual, family, and cultural community diversity.

## **Course Content and Skills**

### Core Content

1. Explain concepts such as diversity, stereotype, lifestyles, class, racism, sexism, sensitivity, tolerance, etc.
2. Critically examine minority group contributions to American society.
3. Demonstrate an awareness of the cultural experience of ethnic/diverse groups other than his/her own
4. Understand what is involved in developing wholesome self-identities
5. Evidence awareness and justification of the need and value of multiculturalism
6. Distinguish similarities and differences among majority and minority cultures
7. Recognize communication patterns in self and others that enhances or inhibits the communication process
8. Synthesize the communication patterns of diverse populations and how they relate to interpersonal relations
9. Summarize scholarly resources related to diversity

### Core Skills

1. To learn to respond appropriately to diverse needs
2. Learning Activities: class discussion, lecture, guided reading, guest speakers, case study, peer practice, experiential learning
3. To learn to apply concern for diversity in professional and social environments
4. Learning Activities: class discussion, lecture, guided reading, guest speakers, case study, peer practice, experiential learning
5. To communicate and work effectively with diverse groups
6. Learning Activities: class discussion, lecture, guided reading, guest speakers, case study, peer practice, experiential learning
7. To develop a vision of society that promotes the success of all members, based on relevant knowledge and theories

8. Learning Activities: class discussion, lecture, guided reading, guest speakers, case study, peer practice, experiential learning, debate
9. To demonstrate the ability to combine impartiality, sensitivity to diversity, and ethical consideration in interactions with others
10. Learning Activities: class discussion, lecture, guided reading, guest speakers, case study, peer practice, experiential learning
11. To develop multicultural awareness, gender sensitivity, and ethnic appreciation in the community  
Learning Activities: class discussion, lecture, guided reading, guest speakers, case study, peer practice, experiential learning
12. To develop responsiveness to diverse sociological, linguistic, cultural, and other factors
13. Learning Activities: class discussion, lecture, guided reading, guest speakers, case study, peer practice, experiential learning
14. To serve as an advocate
15. Learning Activities: class discussion, lecture, guided reading, guest speakers, case study, peer practice, experiential learning, debate
16. To demonstrate the ability to analyze the complex causes of poverty and other disadvantages and their effects
17. Learning Activities: class discussion, lecture, guided reading, guest speakers, case study, peer practice, experiential learning, debate

## **Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance**

The TASP offers a schedule of selected subjects tutoring assistance. Please contact the TASP, (940)397-4684, or visit the ASC homepage for more information. [Tutoring & Academics Supports Programs](#)

## **Student Handbook**

**Refer to:** [2023-2024 Student Handbook](#)

## **Academic Misconduct Policy & 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 individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

## **Grading/Assessment**

**Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment**

Assignments	Points
Cultural Autobiography	200
Research Topic Proposal	100
Argument Analysis	200
Field Notes	100

Assignments	Points
Synthesis Paper	150
Quizzes	125
Weekly Class Participation, Assignments, & Discussion	125
Total Points	1000

**Table 2: Total points for final grade.**

Grade	Points
A	900 to 1000
B	800 to 899
C	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than 600

### Assignments

There will be 5 major assignments in this course which are described within the course assignments folder: Cultural Autobiography, Research Topic Proposal, Argument Analysis, Field Notes, and Synthesis Paper. You will also receive a grade for weekly participation in the discussion boards and/or other various activities.

### Quizzes

You will have 4 quizzes throughout the semester that combine chapter information.

They will be open book. **\*YOUR MUST HAVE THE TEXTBOOK FOR THIS COURSE. IT CAN BE RENTED OR PURCHASED THROUGH THE MSU BOOKSTORE.\***

### Mid-Term and Final Exam

There is no Mid-Term exam. Your synthesis paper will count as your Final Exam and will be turned in to TK20 as a key assessment. You must complete and submit the synthesis paper to TK20 to pass the class.

### Extra Credit

No extra credit assignments will be given or accepted.

### Late Work

Work must be turned in when it is due for full credit. Late work will only be accepted if cleared with instructor and due to an emergency.

### Important Dates

**Change of Schedule and Late Registration:** August 28-31, 2023.

Final Deadline for December graduates to file for graduation: September 25, 2023

**Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:"** 4 pm, October 30, 2023

Refer to the [academic calendar](#) for more details.

### Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program 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. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

**Please note:** This class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete weekly activities, check for class news updates, have access to materials, instructions, resources and to upload your assignments in D2L. 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 for submission. Each time you log into D2L is documented. You should open D2L often to reference content, materials, and updates.**

Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! 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 get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

### **Attendance**

Online Class: Tentative assignment due dates are listed on the course schedule. While the actual due dates may vary due to the flow of the class, all assignment due dates will be finalized and announced in class well in advance of the specific date. Late work, unless arrangements are made by the student and approved in advance by the instructor, will not be accepted for full credit. Participation points will be deducted for activities not completed. You will be given a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class.

Late work will not be accepted for full credit unless arrangements are made by the student and approved in advance by the instructor.

As previously mentioned, 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 individuals to whom credit is given) will not be considered. I use Turnitin for the written assignments and D2L directly syncs with it (you do not have to do anything). You will be able to see the plagiarism percentage and are welcome to make changes and resubmit **BEFORE** the due date. **Any plagiarism of 30% and above is too much! Your assignment will be reduced by one letter grade for anything above 30%.**

### **Important Course Information**

Online Class: I will use D2L for posting the syllabus, course communication, course schedule, attendance, and gradebook. There will be online office hours announced through D2L. You should regularly check D2L, and the email hosted via D2L for important course information. Participation is monitored. You should log in to D2L multiple times per week.

### **Expectations for written work**

Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling are expected on all written assignments (although web discussions are not held to the high standard of a research project or other written assignment).

Written assignments can be done in one of the following:

Microsoft Word and turned in as an attachment in dropbox on D2L

Google doc with the share link submitted to D2L (Make sure share settings are set to “anyone with the link can view or edit”)

Discussions should be completed within the D2L discussion space and NOT uploaded as an attachment.

Due dates should be honored in order to receive the highest grade.

When referring to the ideas of others, works should be cited using the APA format

### **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).

### **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](#).

Students with Disabilities:

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. Students must present appropriate verification from the University's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office during the instructor's office hours. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation(s) to a student until appropriate verification from DSS has been provided.

### **Desire-to-Learn (D2L)**

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with D2L as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. *If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.* **\*Do not wait till the last minute to submit the assignment. Delays or sending through email will be counted late!**

Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ***\*Again, your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!*** There are many places to access your class! 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 get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#). When referring to the ideas of others, works should be cited using the APA format

## College Policies

### Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses.

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

### Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. 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.

### 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.”](#)

## COVID

Scientific data shows that being fully vaccinated is the most effective way to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 and has the greatest probability of avoiding serious illness if infected in all age groups. Although MSU Texas is not mandating vaccinations in compliance with Governor Abbott’s executive orders, we highly encourage eligible members of our community to get a vaccination. If you have questions or concerns about the vaccine, please contact your primary care physician or health care professional. Given the recent rise in cases, individuals are also strongly encouraged to wear facial coverings when indoors among groups of people, regardless of vaccination status. Although MSU Texas is not currently requiring facial coverings, they have been an effective strategy in slowing the spread.

## Other Expectations

**Participation** – It is not enough to just “show up.” In other words, you cannot just sit there and breathe. (For online classes, you should log in D2L multiple times per week if not daily to check

assignments, feedback, and engage in learning, etc.) You need to be prepared to discuss the readings that are assigned, contribute appropriately, and encourage the participation of your peers.

**Preparation** – Complete all assignments on time. Complete readings assigned prior to class in order to be able to participate in class discussions and activities.

**Attitude** – Demonstrate the following dispositions that are essential for learning:

- Curiosity (ask questions, look for additional answers, probe, reflect)
- Flexibility (take alternate points of view, be open-minded)
- Organization (plan ahead – literally, GET A PLANNER!)
- Patience (take time to reason, be persistent in efforts)
- Risk-taking (try things beyond your current repertoire)
- Passion (invest in ideas, processes, products, and most of all – other people)

Be aware that your attitude is conveyed to others by body language, conversation, neatness, completeness of work, willingness to assist and contribute and many other ways. A sense of humor and the ability to be flexible are crucial – not just in this class but from now on – that is the nature of the classroom.

**Respect** – Be considerate of others. Do not use foul language; all contributions should be given in an ethical manner.

### **Grade Appeal Process**

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

### **Notice**

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

### **Additional Readings (not required):**

Adams, M., Blumenfeld, W, Catalano, D., Dejong, K., Hackman, H., Hopkins, L., Love, B., Peters, M., Slasko, D. & Zuniga, X. (2018). *Readings for Diversity and Social Justice*. New York: Routledge.



Appendix A:

Required alignment to all applicable state/national standards (including INTASC/TEExES test framework competencies for certification courses-grad and undergraduate.

Assignment/Activity	Standard/Competency: Core Content & Core Skills
Cultural Autobiography	Explain concepts such as diversity, stereotype, lifestyles, class, racism, sexism, sensitivity, tolerance, etc. Understand what is involved in developing wholesome self-identities
Research Topic Proposal	To learn to apply concern for diversity in professional and social environments
Argument Analysis	Summarize scholarly resources related to diversity
Field Notes	Demonstrate an awareness of the cultural experience of ethnic/diverse groups other than his/her own
Synthesis Paper	Evidence awareness and justification of the need and value of multiculturalism Synthesize the communication patterns of diverse populations and how they relate to interpersonal relations To develop a vision of society that promotes the success of all members, based on relevant knowledge and theories (Ch 2)
*Online Activities: Discussion Board Questions, Reflection, Questions, Lecture and/or Guided Reading, Videos, Assignments, and various other activities	Recognize communication patterns in self and others that enhances or inhibits the communication process Distinguish similarities and differences among majority and minority cultures Critically examine minority group contributions to American society. To demonstrate the ability to analyze the complex causes of poverty and other disadvantages and their effects To serve as an advocate To develop multicultural awareness, gender sensitivity, and ethnic appreciation in the community To develop responsiveness to diverse sociological, linguistic, cultural, and other factors To learn to respond appropriately to diverse needs To communicate and work effectively with diverse groups To demonstrate the ability to combine impartiality, sensitivity to diversity, and ethical consideration in interactions with other

Appendix B: Required assignment/standard alignment matrix

Not applicable – See Appendix A