

**Professor:** Dr. Melissa Nivens  
**Class Time:** TR 9:30am-10:50  
**Location:** PY 201  
**Office:** BeaWood 220  
**Email:** [melissa.nivens@msutexas.edu](mailto:melissa.nivens@msutexas.edu)  
**Office hours:** W 9:00am-11:00pm  
TR 11:00-12:30pm  
Afternoons by appointment

# ENGL 1153.203 & 250: Intro to Reading and Writing about Literature

## Texts:

- Gardner, Janet E. et al. *Literature: A Portable Anthology*. Bedford/St. Martins. 2021.

## Required Materials:

- Note-taking materials
- Folder
- D2L Access

## Course Goals:

- Read various literary texts united by a common theme or topic
- Apply knowledge of literary analysis to interpret literary texts
- Engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, and revision
- Write various genres of academic essays
- 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

## Course Requirements:

- 10% 4 Response Papers
  - Short papers (1 to 2 pages) that respond to a prompt directly related to a reading
- 15% Writing Project 1 Literary Analysis Essay
  - Longer paper (3 pages) that analyzes an element of fiction from a short story.
- 15% Writing Project 2 Comparative Essay
  - Longer paper (3 pages) that compares at least two poems.
- 25% Writing Project 3 Literary Research Paper and Annotated Bibliography
  - Longest paper (5 pages) that explores a research topic connected to a literary reading. Annotated bibliography will summarize and evaluate sources used in the literary research paper.
- 10% 3 Peer Review Workshops/ 1 Instructor Conference
  - Participation in conferences with classmates/instructor to receive feedback on drafts.
- 5% D2L Reading Quizzes
  - Completion of multiple-choice reading quizzes housed in D2L.
- 10% Multimodal Presentation
  - Share research project as a presentation to the class
- 10% Final Essay Exam

**Final Exam:**

The final exam is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 7 at 8:00am in PY 201** more details to follow.

**Grading Policy:** For final grades, this class will not use the plus/minus grading system. The following numerical equivalents for final grades are used:

- A = 100-90%;
- B = 89-80%;
- C = 79-70%;
- D = 69-60%;
- F = 59-0

**Midterm Grades:** In order to help you keep track of your progress toward course objectives, I will provide a Midterm Progress Report through Navigate. I will submit a grade for all students, not just those in danger of failing the course. Midterm grades will not be reported on your transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give you an idea of where you stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should make an appointment with me and consider visiting the Learning Center for tutoring services.

**Submission Format and Policy:** All formal assignments are to be typed, formatted, and outside sources documented according to MLA style. All formal papers will be uploaded into the appropriate D2L Dropbox folder.

By enrolling in this class, you expressly grant MSU a “limited right” in all intellectual property created by you 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. Please note that the D2L Dropbox folder will automatically run the paper through Turnitin.com. Turnitin provides both an Originality Report and an AI Report.

Note: You may not submit a paper for a grade in this class that already has been (or will be) submitted for a grade in another course, unless you obtain the explicit written permission of me and the other instructor involved in advance.

**Access to Microsoft 365:** All students are able to download Microsoft Office 365 free of charge using their MSU Texas student email address. To acquire Office 365, please visit <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/education/products/office?ms.officeurl=getoffice365?ms.officeurl=getoffice365> and create an account.

**University Computer Labs:** The University provides four open computer labs throughout the week. These four labs feature access to Microsoft Office Suite for writing and internet access for research. You can find these labs in:

Location	Hours
Clark Student Center	24 hours (Mon-Sun)
Dillard 146	Mon-Thurs 6:00 am – 7:00 pm
Moffett Library	Mon-Thurs 8:00 am – 10:00 pm; Fri. 8-5; Sat: 10pm-6 pm; Sun: 2:00 pm-10 pm
Legacy Hall	24 hours (Mon-Sun)

**Attendance Policy:** It is important that you attend class and arrive on time. If you have a total of more than three weeks' worth (TR 6 classes) of absences (excused or not) the missed instruction will make it difficult for you to excel in the class. Students who miss class will not be directly penalized, but they will miss out on opportunities for participation and explanations of assignments that could impact the final grade. If you need to miss several classes because of personal reasons or illness, you should alert the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities and provide them with the necessary documentation so that they can verify the situation for all of your instructors.

**Late Assignment Policy:** Late assignments (defined as work not submitted by the date and time posted in D2L) will be accepted, but they will lose 10% of the final grade. Additionally, no late work will be accepted more than 48 hours after the original deadline. If you are unable to come to class on the day an assignment is due, you should still upload it into the D2L Dropbox folder on time to avoid late paper deductions.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Plagiarism is the use of someone else's thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end of the sentence and a listing on the Works Cited page) whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary.

Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Therefore, AI-generated submissions are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism.

As stated above, formal papers will run through the Turnitin for an Originality Report and an AI Report. At the very least, plagiarism will result in an F on the assignment; at worst, the consequence will be an F in the course. Offenders will be reported to the Chair of the Department of English, Humanities, and Philosophy and/or the Director of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

**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

**Safe Zone Statement:** The professor considers this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

**Contacting Your Instructor:** Email is the best way to contact me. Please note that I will not always reply immediately over the weekend or in the evenings.

**Tutoring:** Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP) provides free drop-in tutoring for MSU students. Located on the first floor of Moffett Library, TASP's Learning Center provides tutoring support in a number of core courses and subject areas. Writing tutors are available Monday through Thursday and Sunday. Remember that you don't need an appointment to utilize these services. Check the [TASP webpage](#) for times.

**Campus Carry Statement:** 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. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at MSU Texas's [Campus Carry page](#).

**Daily Schedule of Readings and Assignments:** See Table 1.**Table 1. Class Schedule**

Please note that the schedule is subject to change at any time in the semester. Any changes will be discussed in class and posted in D2L.

**All readings will come from *Literature: A Portable Anthology* unless otherwise indicated.**

**RP** – Response Paper (1-4)

**WP** – Writing Project (1-3)

**PRW** – Peer Review Workshop

**RQ** – Reading quiz is due in D2L on this day

<b>Week</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Do This BEFORE Class</b>	<b>Do This IN Class</b>
Week 1	T 1/16		<b>Review:</b> Syllabus Introduction to the Course  <b>Discuss:</b> Family Relationships & Marriage – scene from <i>Little Women</i>
	R 1/18 <b>MOTHERS &amp; DAUGHTERS</b>	<b>Read:</b> “My Name” p. 471 and in D2L “Everyday Use” p. 438 and in D2L  <b>D2L Submit:</b> RQ1	<b>Discuss:</b> Names Readings  <b>Introduce:</b> Response Paper 1
Week 2	T 1/23	<b>Review</b> Ch 1 Intro & Ch 2 Good Reading  <b>D2L Submit:</b> RP1	<b>Discuss:</b> Active Reading and Annotation  <b>Read:</b> “Girl” p. 461 <b>Practice:</b> Annotation
	R 1/25	<b>Read:</b> “Two Kinds” D2L  <b>Review:</b> Ch 5 Writing about Stories	<b>Discuss:</b> Writing about Stories “Two Kinds”

Week 3	T 1/30 <b>HUSBANDS &amp; WIVES</b>	<b>Review:</b> Questions for Active Reading Fiction p 10  <b>Read:</b> “Happy Endings” p. 429 “Sweat” p. 313  <b>D2L Submit:</b> RQ2	<b>Discuss:</b> Readings  <b>Introduce:</b> WP1 Literary Analysis
	R 2/1	<b>Review:</b> Ch 3 Writing Process  <b>Read:</b> “Story of an Hour” p. 180  <b>D2L Submit:</b> RP2	<b>Discuss:</b> The Writing Process Planning & Drafting  “Story of an Hour”  WP1 Planning Workshop
Week 4	T 2/6	<b>Read:</b> “The Yellow Wallpaper” p. 196  <b>D2L Submit:</b> RQ3	<b>Discuss:</b> “The Yellow Wallpaper”  WP1 Mini-conference
	R 2/8	<b>Write:</b> WP1 Rough Draft	<b>Peer Review Workshop (PRW)</b> Bring 2 printed copies of your draft to class
Week 5	T 2/13 <b>LOVERS</b>	<b>D2L Submit:</b> WP1  <b>Review:</b> Ch 6 Writing about Poems	<b>Discuss:</b> Writing about Poems <b>Read &amp; Discuss:</b> “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love” p.567 “The Nymph’s Reply to the Shepherd” p.568 “Sonnet 18” p. 569 “To the Virgins Make Much of Time” p.576 “To His Coy Mistress” p. 584
	R 2/15	<b>Bring:</b> Printed lyrics to a popular love song	<b>Discuss:</b> Song lyrics  <b>Introduce:</b> WP 2 Comparative Paper

Week 6	T 2/20 <b>FATHERS</b>	<b>Review:</b> Ch 6 Writing about Poems	<b>Read &amp; Discuss:</b> “My Papa’s Waltz” p. 670 “Daddy” p. 710 “Those Winter Sundays” D2L “I Go Back to May 1937” p. 729 “Moving Away” p. 749 “In Colorado My Father...” p. 794
	R 2/22 <b>GRANDMOTHERS</b>	<b>Review:</b> Ch 6 Writing about Poems	<b>Read &amp; Discuss:</b> “Queer Theory: According to My Grandmother” D2L “Behind Grandma’s House” D2L “Nani” p. 753 “Marjorie” D2L  WP2 Writing Workshop
Week 7	T 2/27	<b>Write:</b> WP2 Rough Draft	<b>Peer Review Workshop (PRW)</b> Bring 2 printed copies of your draft to class
	R 2/29	<b>D2L Submit:</b> WP2	<b>NO CLASS – OUT OF TOWN</b>
Week 8	T 3/5 <b>MORE HUSBANDS &amp; WIVES</b>	<b>Review:</b> Ch 7 Writing about Plays	<b>Discuss:</b> Elements of Drama  <b>Read:</b> <i>Trifles</i>
	R 3/7	<b>D2L Submit:</b> RP3	<b>Continue:</b> <i>Trifles</i>
<b>SPRING BREAK NO CLASS 3/12 OR 3/14</b>			

Week 9 <b>LAST DAY TO DROP WITH A "W" Mon, 3/25 4PM</b>	T 3/19	<b>Review:</b> Ch 7 Writing Researched Arguments	<b>Introduce:</b> WP3 Literary Research Paper  <b>Discuss:</b> Research Process
	R 3/21	<b>Read:</b> Sources	<b>Discuss:</b> Evaluating and Using Sources Sample Papers  WP3 – Ann Bib Workshop
Week 10	T 3/26 <b>DATING/CONSENT</b>	<b><i>TW – Sexual Assault</i></b> <b>Read:</b> "Rape Joke" p. 812 "Cat Person" D2L #MeToo D2L  <b>D2L Submit:</b> RP4	<b>Discuss:</b> Readings
	R 3/28	<b>NO CLASS EASTER HOLIDAY</b>	
Week 11	T 4/2	<b>Read:</b> Sources  <b>D2L Submit:</b> Annotated Bib	WP3 Planning & Ann Bib Workshop
	R 4/4	<b>Review:</b> Ch 9 Literary Criticism & Theory  <b>Read:</b> "Mine" p. 483 <b>D2L Submit:</b> RQ4	<b>Discuss:</b> Lit Theory & Criticism  "Mine"
Week 12	T 4/9		<b>INSTRUCTOR CONFERENCES – sign up for a time</b>
	R 4/11		<b>INSTRUCTOR CONFERENCES – sign up for a time</b>



Week 13	T 4/16	<b>Write:</b> WP3 Rough Draft	<b>Peer Review Workshop (PRW)</b> Bring 2 printed copies of your draft to class
	R 4/18		WP3 Revision Workshop Mini-Conferences  Celebration of Scholarship – Extra Credit Opportunity
Week 14	T 4/23	<b>D2L Submit:</b> WP3 – Literary Research Paper	<b>Introduce:</b> Multimodal Presentation  Presentation Planning Workshop
	R 4/25	<b>Read:</b> <b>STUDENT CHOICE READING</b>  <b>D2L Submit:</b> RQ5	<b>Discuss:</b> Reading  Presentation Workshop
Week 15	T 4/30		Presentations
	R 5/2		Presentations
Final	<b>TUESDAY, 5/7 8:00 - 10:00AM PY 201</b>		