



Course Syllabus: Teaching College Writing

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

ENGL 5023 Section X20

Spring 2024

Contact Information

Instructor: Melissa Nivens

Office: BW 220

Office hours: W 9:00-11:00 and TR 11:00-12:30 or by appointment

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Instructor Response Policy

Email is the best way to contact me. I will not always answer in the evenings or on weekends.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Bean, John C. *Engaging Ideas 3rd ed.* Jossy-Bass. 2021.

Glenn, Cheryl and Melissa A. Goldthwait. *The St. Martin's Guide to Teaching Writing.* Bedford/St. Martins. 2014.

Course Description

An overview of writing studies and effective practices in teaching college-level composition.

This is a hybrid course. It meets online and over Zoom on Tuesdays at 6pm. The Zoom link can be found in D2L.

Course Objectives

1. Acquire an understanding of various writing theories, pedagogies, and practices.
2. Develop a syllabus and other course materials for a writing intensive course.

Tutoring Assistance

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. Please see our schedule for more information about times and offerings. Remember that you don't need an appointment to utilize these services.

Some departments also provide tutoring. Check the "Tutoring at MSU" tab in the portal for more information about all campus tutoring opportunities.

For Distance Education students, TASP has partnered with Thinkingstorm, an online tutoring company that provides you with high-quality, 24/7 tutoring support. Located at the top of your D2L course page, select the Distance Education Tutoring course to book an appointment with a tutor. If you are a distance education student (i.e. you live more than 50 miles from MSU and are in all online courses), but you do not see this course pop up under your courses, please contact Ashley Hurst.

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

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 theory and pedagogy 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.

Formal papers may run through 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.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Grading/Assessment

Table 1: Assignments

Assignments	Points
Discussion Leader Post	15
Literacy Narrative	15
Teaching Philosophy	20
Writing Prompt	20
Syllabus	20
Reflection	10
Total	100

Table 2: This class will not use the plus/minus system for *final* grade. The following numerical units are used for the final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59-0

Discussion Leader Post

Students will choose a week to lead the discussion during our Zoom session. Before the chosen session, the student will post a summary and response along with two discussion questions to the D2L Discussion Board. A sample will be provided.

Literacy Narrative

Students will consider their memories of learning to read and write to compose a story about their literacy journey.

Writing Prompt

Students will create an original writing prompt for a first-year composition class that is informed by their personal teaching philosophy.

Teaching Philosophy

Based on their experiences and readings in the course, students will compose a teaching philosophy that could be used for future employment applications.

Syllabus

Students will develop a syllabus for a first-year composition class. The syllabus should include classroom policies and procedures along with a general schedule.

Reflection

In place of a final exam, students will compose a written reflection on their work in the course.

Important Dates

Deadline to file for graduation: February 12, 2024.

Spring Break: March 11-15, 2024

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" March 25, 2024 Check additional dates on [Academic Calendar](#).

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Easter Break: March 28 & 29, 2024

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.

Attendance

Please plan to attend our weekly Zoom meetings on Tuesdays at 6pm. If you cannot attend, please let me know.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online 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 and tests 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.*** 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! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world that is connected to the internet. 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 get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Instructor Class Policies

Students should use professional courtesy when communicating with the instructor and classmates in this course.

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](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

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 MSU TEXAS 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 [MSUReady - Active Shooter](#). 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."](#)

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.

Course Schedule:

Table 3: Weekly Schedule

WEEK	COMPLETE BEFORE TUES CLASS	DURING TUES CLASS	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
1 (1/16)	Review: MSU ENGL First-year Writing Course Material in Week 1 Module	Introductions Discussion Leader Sign-ups Overview of First-year Writing at MSU	
2 (1/23) THINKING AND TEACHING RHETORICALLY	Read: <i>Ideas</i> Preface Ch 3 <i>Guide</i> Downs & Wardle p. 278 D2L "What is Comp Pedagogy?" Stenberg & Lee	Discussion Leader(s): 1."What is Comp...?" 2.Downs & Wardle	
3 (1/30) LITERACY PRACTICES	Read: <i>Guide</i> Ch 9 D2L Brandt Readings (3) Devitt et al	Discussion Leader(s): 3.Brandt Ch1 4.Devitt et al Introduce Literacy Narrative	

WEEK	COMPLETE BEFORE TUES CLASS	DURING TUES CLASS	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
4 (2/6) LANGUAGE DIFFERENCES	Read: <i>Guide</i> Ch 8 Rose p 381 Jones-Royster p 401 D2L Young Watch Ted Talk	Discussion Leader(s): 5.Jones-Royster 6. Young Introduce Teaching Philosophy	Literacy Narrative DUE 2/9
5 (2/13) COURSE DESIGN	Read: <i>Guide</i> Ch 1 - 3 D2L WPA Outcomes Texas Core Curriculum Syllabus Resources	Introduce Syllabus Assignment Review Sample Syllabi	
6 (2/20) WRITING PROCESS	Read: <i>Guide</i> Ch 6 & 7 D2L Textbook Links	Textbook Review	
7 (2/27) ASSIGNMENT DESIGN	Read: <i>Ideas</i> Ch 4 & 5 <i>Guide</i> Ch 4 & 10	Introduce Writing Prompt Assignment Review Sample Assignments	
8 (3/5) WRITING PHILOSOPHIES	Read: D2L Fulkerson "Expressive Pedagogy" "Feminist Pedagogy"	Discussion Leader(s): 7.Fulkerson 8.Exp OR Fem	
SPRING BREAK			

WEEK	COMPLETE BEFORE TUES CLASS	DURING TUES CLASS	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
9 (3/19) ASSESSING WRITING	Read: <i>Ideas</i> Ch 14 & 15 <i>Guide</i> Ch 5	Practice Giving Feedback	Teaching Philosophy DUE 3/21
10 (3/26) MORE ASSESSING WRITING	Read: <i>Ideas</i> Ch 12, 13, 16 <i>Guide</i> Sommers p. 333 D2L Sample Rubrics	Discussion Leader(s): 9.Sommers	
11 (4/2) NEW MEDIA	Read: <i>Guide</i> Ch 10 Selfe p 481 D2L "New Media"	Discussion Leader(s): 10.Selfe or "New Media"	Writing Prompt DUE 4/4
12 (4/9) GRAMMAR	Read: D2L Shaughnessy Smith Antiracist Practices	Discussion Leader(s): 11. Shaughnessy	
13 (4/16) AI	Read: D2L Graham		
14 (4/23)			Syllabus DUE 4/25
15 (4/30) REFLECTION			Reflection DUE 5/2
FINALS WEEK			

