

**Professor:** Dr. Melissa Nivens  
**Class Time:** TR 9:30am  
**Location:** BW 210  
**Office:** BeaWood 220  
**Email:** [melissa.nivens@msutexas.edu](mailto:melissa.nivens@msutexas.edu)  
**Office hours:** W 9:00am-12:00pm  
TR 11:00-12:00pm  
Afternoons by appointment

# ENGL 1153.205 & 252: Intro to Reading and Writing about Literature

## Syllabus

### Texts:

- Schlib, John and John Clifford. *Arguing about Literature: A Guide and Reader*. Bedford/St. Martins. 2020. (Digital Version with Achieve)
- Butler, Octavia. *Kindred*. (2017 Graphic Novel Adaptation by Damian Duffy and John Jennings linked in D2L)

### Required Materials:

- Note-taking materials
- Folder
- D2L/Achieve 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
- Additional information about course objectives can be found on the department webpage, <https://msutexas.edu/academics/libarts/english/index.php>.

### Course Requirements:

- 15% 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.
- 10% Achieve Reading Quizzes
  - Completion of multiple choice reading quizzes housed in Achieve.
- 10% Final Exam
  - Essay exam.

### **Final Exam:**

The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, May 3 at 8:00am. PY 205. 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 your WebWorld and Navigate account. 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 and formatted – and outside sources documented - according to MLA style. All formal papers will be uploaded into the D2L Dropbox folder and/or Achieve.

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.

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)

**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 and a listing on the Works Cited page)—whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. All formal papers will run through Turnitin for an originality 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 Conduct.

**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.

**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 Dean of Students office and provide them with the necessary documentation so that they can verify the situation for all of your instructors.

**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.

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 tutoring tab to book an appointment with a tutor.

**Writing Proficiency Requirement:** All students seeking a Bachelor's degree from Midwestern State University must satisfy a writing proficiency requirement once they have 1) completed 6 hours of Communication Core and 2) earned 60 hours. Students may meet this requirement by passing the Writing Proficiency Exam, passing two Writing Intensive Courses, or passing English 2113. If you have any questions about the exam, visit the Writing Proficiency Office website at <https://msutexas.edu/academics/wpr/> or call 397-4131.

**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 *Arguing about Literature* unless otherwise indicated.**

**RP** – Response Paper (1-4)

**WP** – Writing Project (1-3)

**PRW** – Peer Review Workshop

**AQ** – Reading quiz is due in Achieve on this day

<b>Week</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Do This BEFORE Class</b>	<b>Do This IN Class</b>
Week 1	T 1/17		<b>Review:</b> Syllabus Introduction to the Course  <b>Discuss:</b> Family Relationships & Marriage – scene from <i>Little Women</i>
	R 1/19 <b>MOTHERS &amp; DAUGHTERS</b>	<b>Read:</b> “My Name” D2L “Everyday Use” D2L	<b>Practice:</b> Navigating Achieve  <b>Discuss:</b> Names Readings Intro Response Paper 1
Week 2	T 1/24	<b>Review</b> Ch 1 & 2 Arguments  <b>D2L Submit:</b> RP1	<b>Discuss:</b> Reading and Writing Arguments
	R 1/26	<b>Review:</b> Ch 3 & 4 Reading Process  <b>Read:</b> “Girl” (in ch 3) “Girls Online” (in ch 4)	<b>Discuss:</b> “Girl” & “Girls Online” and sample student papers  Close Reading Strategies

Week 3	T 1/31	<p><b>Review:</b> Ch 6 Writing about Stories</p> <p><b>Read:</b> “Two Kinds” <b>AQ</b></p>	<p><b>Discuss:</b> Elements of Fiction “Two Kinds”</p> <p><b>Introduce:</b> WP1 Literary Analysis</p>
	R 2/2 <b>FREEDOM &amp; CONFINEMENT</b>	<p><b>Review:</b> Ch 5 The Writing Process “Story of an Hour”</p> <p><b>D2L Submit:</b> RP2</p>	<p><b>Discuss:</b> The Writing Process Planning &amp; Drafting “Story of an Hour”</p>
Week 4	T 2/7	<p><b>Achieve Submit:</b> WP1 Draft for PRW</p>	<p><b>PRW1 – bring laptop</b></p>
	R 2/9	<p><b>Read:</b> “The Yellow Wallpaper” <b>AQ</b></p> <p><b>Achieve Submit:</b> PRW Comments</p>	<p><b>Discuss:</b> “The Yellow Wallpaper”</p> <p>Revision &amp; Editing</p>
Week 5	T 2/14	<p><b>D2L Submit:</b> WP1</p>	<p><b>Discuss:</b> Graphic Novels</p> <p><b>Read:</b> <i>Kindred</i> Prologue, River, &amp; Fire</p>
	R 2/16	<p><b>Read:</b> <i>Kindred</i> Fight &amp; Fall</p>	<p><b>Discuss:</b> <i>Kindred</i></p>

Week 6	T 2/21	<b>Read:</b> <i>Kindred</i> Storm, Rope, Epilogue  <b>D2L Submit:</b> RP3	<b>Discuss:</b> <i>Kindred</i>
	R 2/23 <b>RECONCILING WITH FATHERS</b>	<b>Review:</b> Ch 6 Writing about Poems	<b>Discuss:</b> Elements of Poetry  Discuss: “forgiving my father” “Those Winter Sundays” “My Papa’s Waltz” “My Father, in Heaven, Is Reading Out Loud”  <b>Introduce:</b> WP2 Comparative Paper
Week 7	T 2/28 <b>GRANDMOTHERS &amp; LEGACIES</b>		<b>Discuss:</b> “Legacies” “Heritage” “Claims” “Queer Theory: According to My Grandmother” “Behind Grandma’s House”
	R 3/2	<b>Achieve Submit:</b> WP2 Draft for PRW	<b>PRW 2 – Bring Laptop</b>
Week 8	T 3/7 <b>MORE FREEDOM &amp; CONFINEMENT</b>	<b>Achieve Submit:</b> PRW Comments  <b>Review:</b> Writing about Plays	<b>Discuss:</b> Elements of Drama  <b>Read:</b> <i>Trifles</i>
	R 3/9	<b>D2L Submit:</b> WP2  <i>Trifles</i> AQ	<b>Continue:</b> <i>Trifles</i>
<b>SPRING BREAK NO CLASS 3/14 OR 3/16</b>			

Week 9  <b>LAST DAY TO DROP WITH A "W" 3/27 4PM</b>	T 3/21	<b>Review:</b> Ch 7 Writing Researched Arguments	<b>Introduce:</b> WP3 Literary Research Paper  <b>Discuss:</b> Research Process
	R 3/23	<b>Read:</b> Sources	<b>Discuss:</b> Evaluating and Using Sources Sample Papers
Week 10	T 3/28		<b>Instructor Conferences – meet in BW220</b>
	R 3/30		<b>Instructor Conferences – meet in BW220</b>
Week 11	T 4/4	<b>D2L Submit:</b> Annotated Bib	Writing Workshop
	R 4/6	<b>NO CLASS EASTER HOLIDAY</b>	
Week 12	T 4/11 <b>CONSENT</b>	<b>Read:</b> "Cat Person" TW – sexual assault <b>AQ</b>	<b>Discuss:</b> "Cat Person"
	R 4/13	<b>Read:</b> "The Ecstasy of Consent" "When 'Yes' Really..." "#Metoo Has Made Me See..."  <b>D2L Submit:</b> RP4	<b>Discuss:</b> Readings
Week 13	T 4/18	<b>Achieve Submit:</b> WP3 Draft for PRW	<b>PRW3 – bring laptop</b>
	R 4/20	<b>Achieve Submit:</b> PRW Comments	Revision Workshop Mini-Conferences



Week 14	T 4/25	<b>Read:</b> Student Choice Reading <b>AQ</b>	<b>STUDENT CHOICE READING</b>
	R 4/27		Revision Workshop Mini-Conferences
Week 15	T 5/2	<b>D2L Submit:</b> WP3 – Literary Research Paper	Final Exam Prep
	R 5/4		Final Exam Prep
Final	<b>TUESDAY, 5/9 8:00 - 10:00AM BW 210</b>		