



Course Syllabus: Creative Inquiry: Interdisciplinary Thinking
MWSU 2003/4000 Section 201
Spring 2021
Hybrid Delivery Mode

Course Syllabus

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Stacia (Whitworth) Miller
Office: Bridwell Hall 323
Office hours: In-person or virtual [Mon 4:00-5:00](#), [Tues 9:00-10:30](#),
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Class Meeting Information

Monday and Wednesday- asynchronous online in D2L
Friday- Face to Face 12:00-12:50 pm
DB 345 (DB 177 is also listed on the schedule but will not be used at this time)

Each course week begins on Friday afternoon at 1:00pm and ends on Friday afternoon at 12:50 pm.

Instructor Response

During the week, I will typically respond to your emails within 24-48 hours. Any emails received over the weekend will receive a response no later than Tuesday, 8 AM. Emails received on holidays typically will receive a response no later than 8 AM on the second business day after the holiday.

Required Course Materials

Leedy, P.D., & Ormrod, J. E. (2019). *Practical research: Planning and design* (12th ed.). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson. However, 10th and 11th editions are suitable.

Access to a personal computer with Microsoft Software, high speed Internet and the ability to access D2L, the MSU Online Learning System.

Recommended-Enriching and Fun Readings

Lehrer, Jonah. (2012). *Imagine: How Creativity Works*. Harcourt Publishing, New York, NY, 2012 [ISBN 978-0-547-38607-2].

Johnston, Steven. *How We Got to Now: Six Innovations That Made the Modern World*. New York: Riverhead Books, a member of Penguin Group (USA), 2014.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to inter- and cross-disciplinary research. It creates opportunities to inquire and to think out-of-the box. You will learn what research is and what is not, how to review the literature relevant to your research/creative activity project, to differentiate among various research types, and the approaches/methodology your fellow undergraduate researchers, who are in the EURECA program use to answer the questions proposed in their research projects. You will have the opportunity to share your research/creative activity with EURECA mentors and your fellow researchers.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- To identify what research is and what is not.
- To describe the essential components of the research process.
- To use databases to find relevant primary and secondary sources of information.
- Differentiate among the various research types and creative activities.
- Differentiate among the various methodologies used in research.
- To recognize and practice the conditions that lead to creative thinking and discovery
- To apply critical thinking, deductive and inductive reasoning to solve problems, answer questions and to create and discover.
- To conduct research ethically and recognize discipline-specific ethical issues.
- To write a research/creative work proposal to answer a question.

Course Delivery Method and Attendance Policy

This course is delivered via face-to-face at the university campus, and online through D2L. Course materials and access to an online management system will be made available to each student. 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.

Face-to-Face Instruction

Required Face-to-Face meetings will occur on Fridays from 12:00-12:50 pm. Students must engage in class activities during this time. To be prepared, students must complete the asynchronous online activities prior to attending class.

Asynchronous Online Instruction

Asynchronous online instruction occurs anytime before and after our face-to-face meeting on Fridays from 12:00-12:50 pm. Students watch lectures, read assigned materials, inspect websites, answer and write questions, discuss readings and engage in learning activities in a virtual environment prior to attending the face-to-face session.

Course materials are organized into weekly modules. Modules contain objectives to be accomplished, tasks to complete in order to accomplish the objectives, assessment activities and expected outcomes. Your success in this course depends on how well you engage in your own learning. Those in virtual only will be expected to submit weekly activities for engagement to the D2L dropbox.

A seating chart, assigned seating, and attendance checks will be used for all face to face classes. Attendance is expected at all class meetings 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. Students and faculty will not attend/hold class if they are experiencing illness or any signs/symptoms of COVID-19.

A tentative course schedule has been posted on D2L. All course content, assignments, and due dates have been outlined.

Students are expected to be on time and in attendance at every class, and to stay for the entire class. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from the course ([Student Handbook 2020-2021](#), p. 61).

An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences, 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 student 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.

If you would like to receive notifications via a regularly checked email or via text message, you can set it up in D2L. Once you are logged in, go to the drop down by your name in the gold navigation bar. Click "notifications", then you can register an email address or mobile number and customize which notifications you would like to receive.

Assignment Overview and Grading Criteria

Due dates will be shared in D2L and in the schedule. Any assignment can be submitted before the due date. Late assignments will have a minimum automatic 25% point deduction for each day late. Do not wait until the last minute on any of your work!!

Grammar will be graded as a part of any course work. All work should be in your own words! Format – FOR ALL PAPERS: 12 point Times New Roman font, one (1) inch margins, and doubled spaced. The heading should have your names, the class and section number, and be right-justified on the page. The paper should be written in proper English and utilize APA 7th Edition citation style. Papers that do not follow this format will not be accepted or graded.

I will give feedback on assignments when appropriate, including, comments through “news items”, comments directly in the discussion board, and comments to the feedback box associated with each assignment submitted to dropbox. Please take the time to read these comments as I am taking the time to make them.

Grades for each assignment will be posted in the D2L course grade book.

Table 1: Weight allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Weight
Quizzes	25%
Assignments	25%
Class Engagement/Participation/Activities	10%
<u>Non-EURECA students</u> : Research Proposal	40%
<u>EURECA students</u> : Research Project/Creative Activity and presentation at the UGRCA forum	40%

Table 2: Range for final grade.

Letter Grade	Range
A	90 to 100
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	Less than 60

Quizzes

Quizzes will assess your understanding of the material presented in the textbook chapters, readings, videos, mentor presentations, etc. and are scheduled after the completion of 3 to 4 modules. Quizzes will be administered on D2L. Each quiz is timed, thus make sure you take it at a time with no distractions. You will have two attempts to complete the quizzes. Your grade will be the average of the two attempts. Time begins when you tell the program to start the clock. The average of all quizzes weighs 25%.

Assignments

There will be 4 assignments throughout the semester that coincide with module topics and class activities. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments must be typed and submitted via the designated D2L Dropbox. More details will be shared within each assignment. The average of all assignments weighs 25%.

Class Engagement/Participation/Activities

During class you will be expected to participate in class lectures and activities (do not confuse attendance/engagement/participation).

Engagement/participation includes intelligent statements and sincere questions, and clear preparation for class. Prior to class, you will often have activities to complete so that you can effectively participate in class. These assignments are formative assessments to check students understanding of knowledge on each of the topics covered. Students are provided with different types of questions or tasks they are required to answer based on readings, in-class activities, and lectures. The average of all engagement/participation/activities weighs 10%.

Research/Creative Activity Proposal

Central to this course is to write a research/creative activity proposal. This applies only to non-EURECA students enrolled in MWSU 2003. EURECA students enrolled in MWSU 2003 or MWSU 4000 are working with faculty mentors on a research/creative activity project, and their grade will be based on the presentation of their project at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Forum (UGRCFAF) in April. In either case, this grade item weighs 40%.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2020-2021](#)

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 individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the [Office of Student Conduct](#).

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. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage for [Campus Carry](#).

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](#).

Instructor Class Policies

CITATION AND REFERENCE STYLE

Students will follow the APA Style Manual, 7th Edition as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation used in the APA Style Manual, 7th Edition.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

THREE THEN ME RULE

Before you email me, make sure to follow the "Three then Me" rule. The "Three then Me" rule says that you search for your answer regarding the course in at least three other places before you email me. For example, if you have a question about an assignment, you could consult your syllabus, the assignment description on D2L, or another student in the class. Remember, check three sources before you email me your question. It is very likely you'll find the answer and not need to email me. If you don't find the answer, and need clarification, feel free to email me.

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.

Plagiarism Statement

"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." [Student Handbook 2020-2021](#)

Dates and Activities Related to EURECA (required for EURECA students and recommended for nonEURECA students)

- Posters on the Go (PotG), March 4, 2021- EURECA student researchers who are in this course engage in this activity every semester. You are invited to attend. EURECA students described their research projects and discuss results in a simple format like that of an elevator speech in an informal set up. It usually takes place in the Clark Student Center, but to avoid person-person contact, it will be virtual.
- Preparing Effective Oral & Poster Presentations Workshop, March 25, 2021 5:00-6:00 pm. More information will be shared as it gets closer.
- Celebration of Scholarship (Includes UGRCA Forum), April 7-9, 2021- More information will be shared as it gets closer.
- Nuts & Bolts of Writing a EURECA Proposal Workshop, April 14, 2021 5:00-6:00 pm. More information will be shared as it gets closer.

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

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Content	Activities/Assignment
Week 1	Jan 11-15	Online: Introductions and Week 1 Tasks In Class: Course Introduction and Overview	Introduction on Flipgrid Review Syllabus in D2L Join CUR (no cost) CUR White Paper
Week 2	Jan 15-22	Module 1- The Nature and Tools of Research	Watch Videos, Read Ch. 1, Visit CIRT For Class- Define research in your own words; list the characteristics of a good research question
Week 3	Jan 22- 29	Module 2- Generating Research Ideas	Watch Videos and visit CIRT For Class- Create a list of potential research/creative work resources; create a flow chart to guide ideas; write onw 3 research questions
Week 4	Jan 29- Feb 5	Module 3- The Research Process	Watch Videos, Read Ch. 1, Read Ch. 2, visit Moffett Library (videos or tour) For Class- refine your research/creative question
Week 5	Feb 5- 12	Module 4- The Problem: The Heart of the Research Process Assignment 1- Evaluating the Research Problem	Read Ch. 2 Assignment 1- Due Feb 19 For Class- finalize your research/creative question
Week 6	Feb 12- 19	Quiz 1 in D2L (Covers Modules 1, 2, and 3) <i>Call for UGRCA Forum Abstracts</i> <i>No F2F Meeting</i>	Quiz 1 in D2L- Due Feb 19 Assignment 1- Due Feb 19
Week 7	Feb 19- 26	Module 5- Review of the Related Literature Assignment 2- Finding relevant literature	Read Ch. 3, Watch vidoes, Read and visit websites Assignment 2- Due Mar 5 For Class- find peer-reviewed research articles

Week	Date	Content	Activities/Assignment
Week 8	Feb 26- Mar 5	Module 6- Planning Your Research Project and Ethics <i>Posters on the Go</i>	Read Ch. 4, review published literature, Read articles Assignment 2- Due Mar 5 For Class- answer reflection questions for Dr. Resnik's article and complete the feasibility worksheet.
Week 9	Mar 5- 12	Module 7- Writing the Research Proposal Begin working on your Research Proposal (non-EURECA)	Read Ch. 5, examine proposals, Read Denscomb For class- be prepared to share your proposal progress and ask questions
Week 10	Mar 12- 19	Quiz 2 in D2L (Covers Modules 4, 5, 6, and 7) <i>No F2F Meeting</i>	Quiz 2 in D2L- Due Mar 19 Research Prop- Due April 23
Week 11	Mar 19- 26	Module 8- Strategies for Analyzing Quantitative Data Assign 3- Ethics in Research and Creative Activities <i>Preparing Effective Presentations Workshop</i>	Read Ch. 11, review excel tutorials Assignment 3- Due April 2 Research Prop- Due April 23 For class- obtain basic descriptive statistics from a data set and bring output
Week 12	Mar 26- Apr 2	Working on Proposal <i>No F2F Meeting</i>	Assignment 3- Due April 2 Research Prop- Due April 23
Week 13	April 2- 9	Assign 4- Attend the virtual UGRCAF <i>No F2F Meeting</i> <i>Celebration of Scholarship (UGRCA Virtual Forum)</i>	Assignment 4- Due April 9 Research Prop- Due April 23
Week 14	April 9- 16	Working on Proposal <i>No F2F Meeting</i> <i>Nuts and Bolts of Writing a EURECA Proposal Workshop</i>	Research Prop- Due April 23
Week 15	April 16- 23	Finishing Proposal Wrap-up & Next Steps	Research Prop- Due April 23