



Syllabus: Intro to Critical Reading & Academic Writing | Spring 2025

ENGL 0043-2R5 | MWF 11-11:50 AM | BW 117

Contact Information

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Course Description

This course provides instruction and practice in analyzing and evaluating textual information and in composing clear and logical texts. The course is required of those students who have not met TSI readiness standards in reading, writing, or both.

Course Objectives

Upon completing this course, students will be able to

- Use vocabulary skills necessary for college-level coursework.
- Identify the structural elements of written materials.
- Demonstrate ability to think critically.
- Write paragraphs & thesis-based essays that provide strong support and specific details.
- Engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, and revision.
- Demonstrate proficient use of Standard Written English.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Both textbooks are provided as eBooks via Inclusive Access in D2L for 1143 & 0043. You won't buy them separately!

- *LT* - Lunsford, Andrea, and Michal Brody. *Let's Talk with Readings*, Norton, 2023.
- *LSH* - Bullock, Richard, et al. *The Little Seagull Handbook*, Norton, 2023.
- IQ – InQuizitive for Writers, Norton, 2023.

Developmental Requirements

You are enrolled in both ENGL 0043 and 1143 (R sections). You may only drop these courses under the following conditions:

- You must be enrolled in a beginning or intermediate math class. (Working toward TSI competence is required during each long semester.)
- You may not do so until Mar. 22nd, the 9th week of classes. (MSU wants you to stay in the course and improve your skills.)

Grading System & Policies

CYA Grading System

This course, which is designed to support your growth as a writer and your success in English 1143, uses a “Choose Your Adventure” grading system. This system allows you to earn course credit through the kind of work that is most helpful and productive for your own writing process. You’ll be able to choose from a variety of writing activities and online quizzes to earn points.

The course will be graded on a 1000 point scale, and you can choose to earn points by completing and submitting any combination of the available Writing Activities and InQuizitive quizzes. Writing Activities will each be worth 100 points, and InQuizitives will be 15 points each. There will be at least 10 Writing Activities to choose from and 25 InQuizitives. You’ll be provided with workbooks with several Writing Activities available that will help you plan, draft, revise, and/or edit your major writing assignments for English 1143.

Table 1: Points Allocated per Task

Tasks	Description	Points Per	# Available	Suggested #
InQuizitive	Online quizzes over readings, grammar, and writing principles covered in class	15	27	10
Writing Activities	Activities provided in a writing workbook designed to support your writing process for major assignments in English 1143	75	17(+)	8
Writing Conferences	Documented conversations with a writing expert (instructor, TA, TASP, or SSS) about your planning, drafting, or revising process.	125	4(+)	2+

Table 2: Total Points for Final Grade

Grade	Points
A	895-1000
B	795-894
C	695-794
D	595-694
F	0-594

Acceptable Submission Format and Process

Formal assignments are to be typed and formatted with all sources documented according to MLA style guidelines. Formal papers will be uploaded to the D2L Assignment folder. By enrolling in this class, students expressly grant MSU a “limited right” in all intellectual property created for the

purpose of this course. The “limited right” includes but is not 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 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.

Revision

You may revise and resubmit any coursework within 2 weeks of receiving feedback and prior to finals week for additional feedback and a new assessment. Grade revisions are negotiated on a case-by-case basis, and all should be preceded by a revision plan with the help of the instructor.

Mid-Term Progress Report

At mid-term, I’ll share a progress report with advisors, support staff, and you. These do not appear on transcripts or affect GPAs. Students earning Cs or below should visit with me and TASP.

Late Assignment Policy

Late assignments, defined as work not submitted to the designated site within 2 hours after the deadline, may be accepted for credit if you consult with me within two business days of the deadline, at the discretion of the instructor. If you anticipate you may have difficulty meeting a deadline, request an extension at least 24 hours in advance. If you have difficulty submitting or are unsure if your submission was successful, email me with your work attached and explain the issue.

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Plagiarism is the use of another’s thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument (including text written by a generation system or artificial intelligence tool) 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. 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 the Dean of Students. Students have the right to appeal an alleged incident of Academic Dishonesty. Find more information about the policy and appeal procedure on page 55 of [the Student Handbook](#).

Use of AI or Writing Technologies

The use of AI is not allowed in this class. Turnitin does have an AI detector, but it is not 100% accurate. Therefore, if you use AI at any stage in the writing process, you **MUST** state in the comment section of your submission how you used it (in detail). If an originality checker indicates that your response is more than 20% AI-generated, I will investigate further, and if your response and other evidence indicates that the work you submitted is not more than 80% original, you will not receive credit for the assignment. Note that there is no uniform policy on AI use at MSU. Make efforts to understand the policy for each course you take.

Instructor Class Policies

Class Communication - Email & GroupMe

Before asking questions via GroupMe or email, check D2L and our course syllabus and schedule. If the answers you seek are not provided, use GroupMe for questions and conversation about class activities, deadlines, and any issues that others in the class may know. This will allow quicker responses and provide reminders for others.

Email is the best way to contact me about your own performance or attendance. Allow 2 business days for email responses. All emails you send for academic purposes should be revised and edited, including a greeting, body paragraph(s), and closing, to meet professional expectations for emails. For all correspondence with your instructors, indicate your full name, course and section number.

Attendance Policy

Punctual, engaged attendance is crucial to your success in this class and in college. More than two weeks' worth of unresolved absences (MWF: 6 classes) will be grounds for the instructor to drop you from the course. Any absences are likely to affect your performance in the course, and it's your responsibility to be present and prepared for class to maximize your learning. If you must miss class for any reason, you may resolve absences by communicating with your instructor. If you must miss multiple sessions for any reason, alert the Dean of Students office so they can verify for instructors.

***Unresolved Absence:** Absences about which you did not communicate to the instructor prior to or within two days of its occurrence.

***Resolved Absence:** Absences about which you email your instructor prior to or within two business days. Emails must explain what actions you will take to stay on track in the course.

CARE for Class Community

Together, we'll decide what it means to show that we CARE about our own education and that of our classmates. CARE stands for Communicative, Accountable, Respectful, and Engaged. As a class, we'll describe specific behaviors and practices that correspond with those characteristics:

- **Communicative:** Asking & answering (relevant) questions; Being open-minded (not shutting others down; not hesitating to share or to respond); Listening to understand before judging or rejecting; speak up (enough to be heard), avoid raising your voice; don't speak over others or interrupting; give positive feedback (not disruptive)
- **Accountable:** Be real & authentic; take responsibility for yourself & your learning - come to class prepared (readings done & materials ready); positive attitude; when something goes wrong, address it & don't give up (resilience); talk about it & problem solve; [Prof: set clear expectations & apply them fairly; give opportunities for make up; listening for understanding and provide additional time and resources when needed
- **Respectful:** Be honest & sincere (about your effort); Timely feedback; listen to others opinions (even when you disagree: acknowledge perspective, but be clear about disagreement, asking clarifying questions, show empathy, identify points of connection or common ground; stay calm & take your time to breathe and think before you speak; check your attitude; check yourself & try to be unbiased, or reflect on your biases & values; know yourself; respect time (show up on time; end on time); DND settings on devices if possible.

- Engaged: Being involved; not busy with other tasks (or devices); eye contact & non-verbal feedback (open posture & attitude to reflect engaged energy); taking notes; responding and continuing engagement; coming prepared (having read or done assigned tasks)

Learning with Generosity

As a community, we have diverse bodies, experiences, and needs. Our differences are strengths and we should strive to learn from them. To learn in a safe environment, we must ardently reject language and behaviors that denigrate others based on identity. In this learning space, hate speech, harassment, discrimination, & violence are not tolerated. This course encourages discussion of difficult topics. We work through discomfort and create a brave space for learning by showing respect for others and considering diverse perspectives. There is a lot we don't know about each other, and our word choice in discussing social & political issues matters! Ignorance is not an excuse for cruelty or dismissiveness, but we all make mistakes as we learn, so we should be willing to forgive & learn from these situations.

Course & Campus Resources

eBook Access

Your textbooks for this class are provided through English 1143 and are part of MSU Texas' Courseware Access and Affordability Program. Students are charged for course materials on their Business Office account. If you wish to opt-out of the Program and purchase the required course materials on your own, you must do so using the opt-out instructions, which will be sent to your my.msutexas.edu email on the second day of class. Contact jenny.denning@msutexas.edu (MSU Bookstore) if you have questions about opting out.

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

TASP's Learning Center is located on the first floor of the Moffett Library, and tutors are available for one-on-one sessions Monday-Thursday from 11 AM-7 PM. You don't need an appointment to use these services. Writing tutors will not edit your papers for you, but they will provide support and feedback at every stage of the writing process, from brainstorming to drafting, revising to proofreading. [See TASP's Webpage for more information.](#)

University Computer Labs

The University provides four open computer labs with Microsoft Office & internet access.

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

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and

research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Explore resources on [Moffett Library's webpage](#) to learn how to best utilize the library.

D2L & Google Drive

You will use D2L to access most course materials including the syllabus, textbook, announcements, schedule updates, assignment sheets, slideshows, feedback on writing, and other materials. You will also submit formal assignments and discussion board posts on D2L, so please check it daily, especially before our class meets. Google Drive will also be used as a collaborative space and to store class resources.

Access to Microsoft 365

All students can download Microsoft Office 365 free of charge using their MSU Texas student email address. To acquire Office 365, [visit MSU's Student Resources](#).

College Policies

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: January 24, 2025

Deadline to file for graduation: February 17, 2025

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" April 30, 2025

Grade Appeal Process

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

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from 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. For information about refunds, refer to [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#).

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 an 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](#).

Campus Carry

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 as 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. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Schedule

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. A more detailed, live version of the schedule is posted on D2L.

Weeks	Topics/Activities/Assignments	All Deadlines: 11:59 PM in D2L
Wk 1: 1/21-1/24	Understanding the Course, Rhetorical Situations	
2: 1/25-1/31	Reading Rhetorically, New Media Design, & Example ePortfolios	
3: 2/1-2/7	Writing Process, Topic Selection, Analysis, & Arguments, Media Literacy	2/3: Phase 0 Writing Activities (WA) & InQuizitives (InQ)
4: 2/8-2/14	Genre, Style, Documentation, & Editing	
5: 2/15-2/21	Reflecting on Writing, Peer Review	2/21: Phase 1 WAs & InQs
6: 2/22-2/28	Research Skills: Finding, Evaluating, & Documenting Sources, CRAAP Test	
7: 3/1-3/7	Incorporating Research: Synthesis Matrix & Practice	
	SPRING BREAK	
8: 3/17-3/21	Drafting and Revising Synthesis Matrix	
9: 3/22-3/28	Troubleshooting & Completing Synthesis Matrix	3/28: Ph. 2 WAs & InQs
10: 3/29-4/4	Planning & Developing Synthesis Essay	
11: 4/5-4/11	Drafting & Troubleshooting Synthesis Essay	
12: 4/12-4/16	Peer Review Synthesis & Revising Synthesis	
13: 4/21-4/25	Editing Synthesis	
14: 4/26-5/2	Reflect and Demonstrate Learning: Workshop ePortfolios	5/2: Phase 3 WAs & InQs
15: 5/3-5/9	Showcase ePortfolio	
Fin 5/10-5/15	Finals Week: No Final Exam	