



MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
A Member of the Texas Tech University System

Course Syllabus: Human Experiences
Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education
COUN 2143 Section 11
Fall 2025

Contact Information

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| <u>Instructor:</u> Dr. Reeves Fyfe <u>Office:</u> Flower Mound #114 <u>Office Phone:</u> 940-247-0841 (text encouraged) <u>E-mail:</u> Emily.reeves@msutexas.edu | <u>Office hours:</u> TBD –_based on student survey |
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Instructor Response Policy

The best way to contact me is through email. I will try my best to answer all emails and texts within 24 hours, however you will definitely get a response within 48 hours (2 business days). Any emails or texts received during weekends will receive a response the following Monday.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

N/A – materials will be provided.

Course Description

A study of perspectives shaped by individual, family, and community experiences, incorporating inquiry and research to deepen understanding.

Course Content and Skills

1. **Analyze research on** how individual, family, and community experiences shape perspectives and influence human interactions.
2. **Evaluate research of** varying viewpoints by applying course concepts to real-world media, narratives, and case studies.
3. **Develop** critical thinking and inquiry skills to interpret the motivations, values, and societal influences behind varying perspectives.
4. **Reflect** on and interpret research to gain insights into human interaction and relationships.
5. **Synthesize** insights gained from perspective analysis to deepen awareness of the complexities of human experiences and interactions.

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

The TASP offers a schedule of selected subjects tutoring assistance. Please contact the TASP, (940)397-4684, or visit the ASC homepage for more information. [Tutoring & Academics Supports Programs](#)

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

AI / Chat GPT

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.

You may type a question into ChatGPT, you may not exactly copy and paste its response, and turn it in as your own. If you use ChatGPT, you must disclose this somewhere in your assignment. If you use ChatGPT or any AI, please use it in ways that are ethical, accurate, and useful.

Grading/Assessment

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

| Assignment | Points |
|---|---------------|
| Autobiography | 5 |
| Padlet Activity | 5 |
| Discussions (4) | 12 |
| Perspective Taking Middle Project Assignments | 15 |
| Perspective Analysis Portfolio Assignments | 25 |
| Three Minute Thesis Assignments | 20 |
| Course Surveys (2) | 8 |
| Course Check Ins (2) 5 points each | 10 |
| Total Points | 100 |

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

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

Assignments

The two major assignments are described below. You will also have discussions and weekly assignments including smaller assignments that support those listed below.

Perspective Analysis Portfolio

The purpose of this portfolio is to help you develop a deeper understanding of how individual, family, and community experiences shape individual perspectives. Through critical analysis of real-world media, narratives, or case studies, you will reflect on differing perspectives and apply course concepts to evaluate the factors influencing these perspectives. Components of this portfolio will be submitted to TK20 as your key assessment for the course. This is required to pass the course.

Three Minute Thesis

For your culminating assignment, you will deliver a Three Minute Thesis (3MT)-style presentation that distills your course project into a clear, engaging, and impactful talk. This format challenges you to communicate complex ideas concisely, using accessible language for a general audience. Your presentation should highlight the core purpose, key findings, and significance of your work—demonstrating not only what you accomplished, but why it matters. This final task is designed to sharpen your communication, synthesis, and public speaking skills, which are critical for academic, professional, and real-world success.

Extra Credit

No extra credit assignments will be given or accepted.

Late Work

Work must be turned in when it is due for full credit. The following deductions will be made when work is submitted late.

- 25% deduction 1-6 days late
- 50% deduction for 7 or more days late.
- 100% deduction for 15 or more days late

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 28

Deadline to file for graduation: September 22

Last Day to drop with a grade of “W:” October 8

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

Refer to the [Academic calendar](#) for more details.

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.

Please note: This class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete weekly activities, check for class news updates, have access to materials, instructions, resources and to upload your assignments in D2L. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. Assignments are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time for submission. Each time you log into D2L is documented. You should open D2L often to reference content, materials, and updates.

*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! 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](#).*

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records daily. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

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 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](#).

I will use D2L for posting the syllabus, course communication, course schedule, attendance, and gradebook. There will be online office hours announced through D2L. You should check D2L at least three times per week.

Important Course Information

Expectations for written work:

- Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling are expected on all written assignments (although web discussions are not held to the high standard of a research project or other written assignment).
- Written assignments can be done in one of the following:
 - Microsoft Word and turned in as an attachment in dropbox on D2L
 - PDF Document and turned in as an attachment in dropbox on D2L
 - Google doc with the share link submitted to D2L (Make sure share settings are set to "anyone with the link can view or edit")
- Discussions should be completed within the D2L discussion space and NOT uploaded as an attachment.
- Due dates should be honored in order to receive the highest grade.

- When referring to the ideas of others, works should be cited using the APA format.

Inclement Weather

In the case of campus closure due to inclement weather, key decision-makers will monitor weather projections and communicate with local news agencies and WFISD leadership to make a delay or cancellation decision. The timeline is as follows:

| Event | Time | Day | Decision |
|---|-------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Inclement weather occurs during regular work/class day | 3:30 PM | Day of inclement weather | Cancel classes/events after 5 PM |
| Overnight inclement weather expected | 8 PM | Day before inclement weather | Close campus or delay opening |
| Delay called the day before but change to closure due to the extent of weather impact | 6:15 AM | Day of delay | Close campus |
| No cancellation or delay decision made the night before | 5:30 AM | Day after no decision made the night before | Close campus or delay opening |

Delay/closure times are as follows:

- MWF class day: Delay to either 10 AM or 11 AM; all classes prior to opening do not meet.
- Tu/Th class day: Delay to 11 AM; all classes prior to opening do not meet
- Saturday or Sunday: Delay to either 10 AM or 11 AM; classes may start after campus is open.

Notification processes - Notification occurs through official campus channels and in communication with the local news networks. MSU channels include MSU Alert, MSU Safety app, Postmaster, and website headers. MSU Police and the Office of Marketing and Public Information. Information for all channels can be found at [MSU Ready](#).

| Activity | Recommendation |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Face-to-face or hybrid courses | Indicate in a syllabus statement whether the course will shift to fully online in inclement weather. A shift to online is not required, but is permitted as long as you describe your inclement weather practices in class and in your syllabus. |
| Online courses | Fully online courses may continue as scheduled, but should communicate course practices in syllabus statements and news items on D2L. |
| Graded assessments | If assessment deadlines coincide with the closure dates, Academic Affairs recommends delaying the deadline until after the campus reopens. A syllabus statement should state if deadlines will stand during closure. |

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the [Schedule of Classes](#) each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (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. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in

determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

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](#).

Students with Disabilities:

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. Students must present appropriate verification from the University's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office during the instructor's office hours. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation(s) to a student until appropriate verification from DSS has been provided.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

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 has 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.

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 WATC. 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 [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). 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."](#)

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick, Title IX Coordinator, Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse.

940-397-4213, laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 on the [Sexual Misconduct Report Form](#).

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit the [MSU Sexual Misconduct Resource Page](#).

COVID

Scientific data shows that being fully vaccinated is the most effective way to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 and has the greatest probability of avoiding serious illness if infected in all age groups. Although MSU Texas is not mandating vaccinations in compliance with Governor Abbott's executive orders, we highly encourage eligible members of our community to get a vaccination. If you have questions or concerns about the vaccine, please contact your primary care physician or health care professional. Given the recent rise in cases, individuals are also strongly encouraged to wear facial coverings indoors among groups of people, regardless of vaccination status. Although MSU Texas does not currently require facial coverings, they have been an effective strategy in slowing the spread.

Other Expectations

Preparation – Complete all assignments on time. Complete readings assigned in order to participate in class discussions and activities.

Attitude – Demonstrate the following dispositions that are essential for learning:

- Curiosity (ask questions, look for additional answers, probe, reflect)
- Flexibility (take alternate points of view, be open-minded)
- Organization (plan ahead – literally, GET A PLANNER!)
- Patience (take time to reason, be persistent in efforts)
- Risk-taking (try things beyond your current repertoire)
- Passion (invest in ideas, processes, products, and most of all – other people)

Be aware that your attitude is conveyed to others by body language, conversation, neatness, completeness of work, willingness to assist and contribute and many other ways. A sense of humor and the ability to be flexible are crucial – not just in this class but from now on – that is the nature of the classroom.

Respect – Be considerate of others. Do not talk while others are talking; do not use foul language; behave in an ethical manner.

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.

COUN 2143-X11 Course Schedule

| Module/Week | What you are doing | What is DUE |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 1/AUG 25 | Comfortable with class | Initial course survey (Google) |
| 2/SEPT 2 (Tues) | Ted Talk Padlet Activity Start Autobiography | Ted Talk Padlet Activity |
| 3/Sept 8 | Autobiography | Autobiography – must use template |
| 4/Sept 15 | Autobiography Discussion Start Perspective taking assignment | Autobiography Discussion Initial Post and Peer posts (3) Initial Post is due by Wed. and Peer Post due Sunday at midnight. |
| 5/Sept 22 | Perspective Taking Mini Project Perspective Taking Initial Discussion | Perspective Taking Mini Project Choice 1 of 3 Perspective Taking Discussion Initial Post |
| 6/ Sept 29 | Perspective Taking Mini Project Perspective Taking Discussion Peer Posts (3) Select Portfolio topic and find 3 references (Research/video/choice) | Perspective Taking Mini Project Final (all 3 choices) Perspective Taking Discussion Peer Posts (3) |
| 7/Oct 6 | Portfolio Cover, Introduction, 3 References – use template Course Check In 1 | Portfolio Cover, Introduction, 3 References- must use template Course Check In 1 |
| 8/Oct 13 | Analysis for Reference 1 Analysis 1 Discussion | Analysis for Reference 1 Analysis Discussion 1 initial post Analysis Discussion 1 peer posts (3) |
| 9/Oct 20 | Analysis for References 2 and 3 | N/A – work on Analysis for References 2 and 3 |
| 10/Oct 27 | Analysis Discussion 2 | Analysis Discussion 2 initial post Analysis Discussion 2 peer posts (3) |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| | Final, Complete Perspective Analysis Portfolio | Final, Complete Perspective Analysis Portfolio |
| 11/Nov 3 | Course Check In | Three Minute Thesis – Single Slide Draft with script Course Check In 2 – include perspective analysis rubric/reflection |
| 12/Nov 10 | TK20 Submission TMT – Single Slide Video | Three Minute Thesis Video TK20 Portfolio Submission |
| 13/ Nov 17 | November 20 Undergrad Research Participation(optional): Three Minute Thesis – Single Slide (3 minutes) | |
| November 24-28 Thanksgiving Break | | |
| 14/Dec 1 | Due Dec 5: Last Day of Class | Three Minute Thesis Reflection Final course survey (Google) |
| | I do not give finals | |

Additional Readings (not required):

Adams, M., Blumenfeld, W, Catalano, D., Dejong, K., Hackman, H., Hopkins, L., Love, B., Peters, M., Slasko, D. & Zuniga, X. (2018). *Readings for Diversity and Social Justice*. New York: Routledge.