

Professor: Dr. Melissa Nivens
Class Time: MW 2:30pm
Location: PY 205
Office: BeaWood 220
Email: melissa.nivens@msutexas.edu
Office hours: MW 9:00am-12:00pm
Afternoons by appointment

ENGL 4013: Introduction to Composition Studies

Syllabus

Texts:

- Miller, Susan. ed. *The Norton Book of Composition Studies*. 2009.
- Tate, Gary et al. *A Guide to Composition Pedagogies*. 2nd ed. 2014.

Required Materials:

- Note-taking materials
- 2 Blue Books

Course Goals:

- Acquire a more sophisticated understanding of different theories of writing
- Demonstrate the ability to apply different theories of composing in order to make sound pedagogical decisions
- Reflect on the relationship between theory and practice
- Gain knowledge of writing as a skill across content areas
- Acquire a familiarity with the various discourses, professional journals, and online resources of the composition community
- Additional information about course objectives can be found on the department webpage, <https://msutexas.edu/academics/libarts/english/index.php>.

Course Requirements:

- 15% Class Discussion Presentation
- 15% Literacy Narrative
- 15% Reader Response Papers/Discussion Boards (if necessary)
- 15% Lesson Plan Project
- 25% Research Paper
- 15% Final Exam

Final Exam:

- The final exam will be submitted electronically through D2L. It is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9 at 5:45pm, but I will have **the exam window available from Monday, December 7 at 8am through Wednesday, December 9 at 10pm.**

Grading Policy: This class will not use the plus/minus grading system. In this class, the following numerical equivalents for final grades are used:

A = 100-90%;

B = 89-80%;

C = 79-70%;

D = 69-60%;

F = 59-0

Submission Format and Policy: All formal assignments are to be typed and formatted – and outside sources documented - according to MLA style. Additionally, all formal papers must be printed and submitted in your folder and uploaded into the D2L Dropbox folder.

By enrolling in this class, 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.

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.

Late Assignment Policy: Late assignments, defined as work not submitted by the start of class on the designated due date, 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 the 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.

Attendance Policy: It is important that you attend class and arrive on time, whether in person or remotely via Zoom. If you have a total of more than two weeks' worth (TR 4 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, 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. Please see the [MSU Texas Return to Campus](#) webpage for more information should you begin to experience COVID-19 symptoms.

Writing Center: 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 from 11:00am to 6:00pm and Sunday 2:00pm to 9:00pm. Remember that you don't need an appointment to utilize these services.

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 either the Writing Proficiency Exam or 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. Course Calendar**

Week	Date	Do This Before Class	Do This In Class
1 "Writing is not just something people do, but something people study."	M 8/24		Introductions Syllabus What is Writing?
	W 8/26	Read: <i>NBCS</i> Parker, 3 D2L Threshold Concepts	Discuss readings Sample CDP Sign up for CDPs
2	M 8/31	Read: <i>NBCS</i> Douglas, 74 Fitzgerald, 171	CDP 1 & 2
	W 9/2	Read: D2L Brandt Lindquist & Halbritter	CDP 3 & 4 Introduce Literacy Narrative
3 "Writing is impacted by our prior experiences"	M 9/7	NO CLASS LABOR DAY	
	W 9/9	Read: <i>NBCS</i> Bartholomae, 605 D2L Cedillo & Bratta	CDP 5 & 6
4	M 9/14	Read: D2L Young Kim	CDP 7 & 8
	W 9/16	Write: Literacy Narrative Draft Bring 2 copies of draft to class	Peer Review Workshop

Week	Date	Do This Before Class	Do This In Class
5 “Writing helps people make meaning and get things done, but there are always constraints.”	M 9/21	Read: <i>NBCS</i> Villanueva, 991 Jones-Royster, 1117	CDP 9 & 10
	W 9/23	Write: Literacy Final Draft Read: D2L Downs	Literacy Narrative DUE TODAY Understanding Rhetoric
6	M 9/28	Read: <i>NBCS</i> Bizzell Brodkey	CDP 11 & 12
	W 9/30	Read: <i>NBCS</i> Reynolds, 897 D2L Gries	CDP 13 & 14
7 “‘Good writing’ is dependent on writers, readers, situation, technology, and use.”	M 10/5	Read: <i>NBCS</i> Fulkerson, 430	CDP 15
	W 10/7	Read: <i>NBCS</i> Shaughnessy, 387	CDP 16 Introduce Research Paper
8	M 10/12	Read: <i>NBCS</i> Lundsford & Ede, 813 D2L TBD	CDP 17 & 18
	W 10/14	Read: <i>GCP</i> What is Composition Pedagogy Introduction, 1 Collaborative, 37 Write: Reader Response #1	Discuss: Composition Pedagogy

Week	Date	Do This Before Class	Do This In Class
9 “Writing is a process, all writers have more to learn, and writing is not perfectible.”	M 10/19	Read: <i>GCP</i> Community-Engaged, 55 Expressive, 111	Discuss: Pedagogy Practices Introduce: Lesson Plan Project
	W 10/21	Read: Genre, 146 Review: D2L TEKS Common Core	Discuss: Pedagogy Practices TEKS/Common Core Activity STAAR Assessment
10 Last day to drop with W, 10/28	M 10/26	Read: Literature & Comp, 163	STAAR Assessment
	W 10/28	Read: <i>GCP</i> Feminist, 128 New Media, 177 Write: Reader Response #2	Discuss: Pedagogy Practices
11	M 11/2	Work on Presentations	Presentations 1-4
	W 11/4	Work on Presentations	Presentations 5-9
12	M 11/9	Read: <i>GCP</i> Second Language, 266 Writing in the Disciplines, 283 Write: Reader Response #3	Discuss: Pedagogy Practices
	W 11/11		Introduce Research Papers

Week	Date	Do This Before Class	Do This In Class
13	M 11/16	Consider topics Begin finding sources	Research Paper Workshop Bring Laptop
	W 11/18	Work on drafts	Research Paper Workshop Bring Laptop
14	M 11/23	Work on drafts Bring 2 copies of draft to class	Peer Response Workshop
	W 11/25	NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK	
15 CLASS MOVES TO ONLINE ONLY	M 11/30	Write: Rough Draft	Instructor Conferences over Zoom
	W 12/2	Write: Final Draft	RESEARCH PAPER DUE Final Exam Review
16 Exam Week		FINAL EXAM Exam will be available in D2L from 8am 12/7 through 10pm 12/9	