

# Intro to Reading and Writing about Literature

**Instructor** Greg Giddings  
Office: Bea Wood 235  
Phone: x4476  
[greg.giddings@msutexas.edu](mailto:greg.giddings@msutexas.edu)

**Office Hours** MW: 10:00-12:30

## Course Goals

- Read various short fictions and plays
- Apply knowledge of literary terms and analysis to interpret literary texts
- Engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, and revision
- Compose essays on the various literary genres
- 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 (MLA)
- Demonstrate proficient use of Standard Written English
- Realize that literature is an essential method of better understanding the human condition
- Additional information about course objectives can be found on the department webpage, <https://msutexas.edu/academics/libarts/english/index.php>.

## Required Textbooks

*The Norton Introduction to Literature*, edited by Kelly J. Mays, Shorter 13<sup>th</sup> edition

*Writing with Style*, by John Trimble, any edition

## Course Requirements

- 45% 3 Formal Essays
- 25% Literary Research Paper
- 10% Annotated Bibliography
- 10% Reading Quizzes and Class Participation
- 10% Final Exam

## Final Exam

The final exam is scheduled for Monday, May 8 at 8:00am

## Grading Scale

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 midterm average should make an appointment with me and consider visiting the Learning Center for tutoring services.

## 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.

## Dropping a Class

March 20, 2023 is the last day to drop a class with a “W.”

## 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.

## Submission Format and Policies

All writing assignments are to be typed and formatted—and outside sources documented—according to MLA style. You will turn in a “hard copy” of all writing assignments. In addition, you will need to upload, in a *Word* document, your essays to the D2L dropbox. This final step is so that I can check your essay for originality.

By enrolling in this class, you expressly grant MSU Texas a “limited right” in all intellectual property that you have created for this course. This “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 in advance the explicit written permission of me and the other instructor involved.

## 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 be evaluated by 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.

## Quizzes and Late Assignment Policy

Daily quizzes and responses cannot be made up—these are in large part an incentive to attend class and a testament to your preparedness. Also, these will take place at the beginning of class. If you are late, you will not be allowed to take a reading quiz. In addition, essays will be accepted only 24 hours after the due date, and then with a one-letter grade penalty. After 24 hours, I will not accept any work. (Students will have adequate time for the preparation of essays; consequently, my expecting these essays to be completed punctually does not seem unreasonable.)

## Statement of Nondiscrimination

Midwestern State University is committed to providing equal access for qualified students with disabilities to all university courses and programs, and by law, all students with disabilities are guaranteed a learning environment that provides reasonable accommodation of their disabilities.

This guarantee is provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA reads: “No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subject to discrimination by any such entity.”

To obtain disability support services, students must be accepted for admission to Midwestern State University, complete a request for services form available through the Office of Disability Services, and provide current documentation from a qualified professional (such as a licensed physician, psychologist, audiologist, etc.) diagnosing the disability, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For information on Disability Services at Midwestern State University see the following:  
<http://students.mwsu.edu/disability/>

If I do not have proper notification the Office of Disability Services, I cannot and will not make special accommodations.

## 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 <http://mwsu.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>.

## ENGL 1153 Schedule

---

Please read the specified readings in advance and be prepared to discuss them on the dates listed below.

\*\* Schedule subject to revision as necessary \*\*

<b>Week</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
<b>1</b>	1-16 1-18 1-20	MLK day Introduction to class "A&P" (p. 163)	
<b>2</b>	1-23 1-25 1-27	Trimble's "How to Write a Critical Analysis" and sample "Sammy" essay "Narration and Point of View" (p. 169) and "The Cask of Amontillado" (p. 173) "Puppy" (p. 179)	
<b>3</b>	1-30 2-1 2-3	Trimble's "Thinking Well" and "Getting Launched" "Character" (p. 210) and "A Good Man is Hard to Find" (p. 516) "A Rose for Emily" (p. 677)	
<b>4</b>	2-6 2-8 2-10	Trimble's "Middles." "Symbol and Figurative Language" (p. 380) and "The Story of an Hour" (p. 568) "Shiloh" (p. 677)	Body paragraph is due.

<b>5</b>	2-13 2-15 2-17	Trimble's "Openers" "Cathedral" (p. 28) "The Things They Carried" (p. 609)	Essay #1 is due in class and on D2L.
<b>6</b>	2-20 2-22 2-24	Trimble's "Diction" "Trifles" (p. 1197) "Drama" (p. 1209-30)	
<b>7</b>	2-27 3-1 3-3	Trimble's "Readability" <i>Fences</i> (p. 1230-52) <i>Fences</i> (p. 1152-70)	
<b>8</b>	3-6  3-8 3-10	<i>Fences</i> (p. 1170-82) and Trimble's "Proofreading" Trimble's "Closers" Trimble's "Superstitions"	Essay #2 is due in class and on D2L.
	3-13 3-15 3-17	Spring Break Spring Break Spring Break	
<b>9</b>	3-20  3-22 3-24	<b>Last day to drop the class.</b> <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> (p.1843-68) <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> (p 1868-93) <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> (p. 1893-1909)	
<b>10</b>	3-27 3-29 3-31	Introduce Research Paper stories. Choose a story. Go to library. Read. Working bibliography example.	
<b>11</b>	4-3 4-5 4-7	In-class bibliography work. In-class bibliography work. Holiday	Essay #3 is due
<b>12</b>	4-10 4-12 4-14	Thesis statement question Scratch outline discussion Sign up for conferences.	Working bibliography is due. Thesis statement is due. Scratch outline is due.
<b>13</b>	4-17 4-19 4-21	No class: Mandatory conference. No class: Mandatory conference. No class: Mandatory conference.	

14	4-24 4-26 4-20	Annotated bib example and discussion. Example research paper. MLA form exercise.	Annotated bib is due in class and on D2L.
15	5-1 5-3  5-5	Plagiarism/Paraphrasing discussion.   Final exam prep	Research paper is due in class and on D2L.

**Final exam: Monday, May 8 @ 8:00 am.**

---