

Course Syllabus: Academic Research & Writing  
ENGL 1143 Sections 205 & 206  
Spring 2022

**Contact Information**

Instructor: Dr. Shelby Ragan  
Office: BW 221  
Office hours: MWF 11-12, TR 9:30-10:30, by appointment  
Office phone: (940) 397-4245  
E-mail: [shelby.ragan@msutexas.edu](mailto:shelby.ragan@msutexas.edu)

**Course Description and Goals**

The primary objective of the course is to provide training in rhetoric, including skills involved in the writing process, through composition and reading with the addition of particular skills needed for thoughtful research. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Apply knowledge of rhetoric to make decisions about written communication
- Engage in a writing process that includes invention, drafting, and revision
- Write thesis-based academic arguments that provide strong support and specific details
- Find, evaluate, and synthesize credible sources in support of a research paper
- Use sources ethically, in contextually appropriate ways, following designated style guide
- Demonstrate proficient use of Standard Written English

**Textbook & Instructional Materials**

*The Writer's Loop: A Guide to College Writing for Midwestern State University.* Ingraham, Lauren and Jeanne Law Bohannon. Bedford/St. Martins. 2020.

You will be given access to the e-book version of the textbook via Achieve. You will be able to access Achieve (and the book) via D2L once the semester begins.

ENGL 1143 205 & 206 are included in the Courseware Access & Affordability Program at MSU Texas. What does this mean?

1. Your materials will be available the first day of class, for all students in your class. To access your materials, please log into D2L and navigate to your course.
2. The charges for this material have been posted to your student account at the Business Office. If you want to “opt out” of this program and the cost savings, you will receive the “opt out” instructions in your my.msutexas.edu email on the second day of class.
3. The cost of your materials charged to your account is:

COSM Electronic Courseware:	\$45.63
Tax:	\$03.76
Comparable pricing at bookstore:	\$63.75
Publisher's website:	\$58.99

If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact us over at the MSU Bookstore (940) 397-4303.

### Course Materials

Three (3) Blue Books, which can be purchased from the Library or Bookstore.

### 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 IT or your instructor.

### Assignments

The major assignments of this course are: a) two in-class, timed essays (TW), b) three formal, revised essays (FE), c) a researched position paper (RPP), d) an annotated bibliography, e) a peer review workshop, and f) a final exam. The course will also include reading materials from the textbook and/or other provided sources, and engagement activities (e.g. quick-writes, labor logs, reading checks, quizzes, activities, etc.).

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points	Assignments	Points
TW 1	5	FE 1	10
TW 2	5	FE 2	10
RPP	15	FE 3	10
<i>Annotated Bibliography</i>	10	Engagement Activities	15
<i>Peer Review Workshop</i>	10	Final Exam	10
Total			100

## **Grading Policies**

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%. Please review the significance of each letter grade (taken from the MSU's Undergraduate Catalogue, p. 73). Essays that meet the basic requirements earn a C, not an A or B. If you wish to earn As and Bs, you will have to work harder to produce better than satisfactory, or average, writing.

## **Midterm Grades**

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, I will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld 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 the students' 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 at the midway point should make an appointment with me and consider taking advantage of the TASP services (see below).

## **Writing Proficiency Requirement**

All students seeking a Bachelor's degree from Midwestern State University must satisfy a writing proficiency requirement once they've 1) passed the 6 hours of Communication Core and 2) earned 60 hours. Students may meet this requirement in one of three ways: by passing the Writing Proficiency Exam, passing two Writing Intensive Courses (only one can be in the core), 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.

## **Acceptable Submission Format and Process**

All formal assignments are to be typed and formatted – and outside sources documented - according to MLA style guidelines. All formal papers will be uploaded to the D2L Assignment folder and/or the Achieve Assignment 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.

## **Contacting Your Instructor**

Email is the best way to contact me. Please allow 24 hours for a response (48 hours on the weekends).

## **Late Assignment Policy**

All assignments are due on the dates assigned. No late work will be accepted unless specific arrangements have been made prior to the due date. Students falling two assignments behind are subject to administrative withdrawal from the course by the instructor.

## **Attendance Policy**

It is important that you attend class and arrive on time. **Fifteen (15) absences from class (excused or not) will result in an automatic F for the semester 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 COVID webpage for more information should you begin to experience COVID-19 symptoms. Student athletes that have to miss class to attend sporting events must come see me at the beginning of the semester.

## **Appropriate Conduct & Class Policies**

In the classroom students are expected to ask and answer questions and participate in discussion. Appropriate conduct also means maintaining a safe learning environment based on mutual respect and civility. Repeated misconduct may result in receiving a grade penalty or being dismissed from the course.

## **Safe Zone Statement**

This class is 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.

## **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). Penalties for plagiarism in this course can include failure of an assignment, failure of the course, and/or a formal university report of plagiarism. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office 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.

## **Tutoring and Academic Support Programs**

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. Please consult their schedule for more information about times and offerings. Remember that you don't need an appointment to utilize these services. Some departments also provide tutoring. Check the "Tutoring at MSU" tab in the portal for more information about all campus tutoring opportunities. 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 Distance Education Tutoring course to book an appointment with a tutor. If you are a distance education student (i.e. you live more than 50 miles from MSU and are in all online courses), but you do not see this course pop up under your courses, please contact Ashley Hurst.

## Schedule

*Note: Changes in the course syllabus or schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.*

SC = A Student's Companion for the Writer's Loop; WL = The Writer's Loop

Week	Date	Day	Homework/Assignments <b>**before class**</b>	In-class
1	1/10/2022	M		Introduction
1	1/12/2022	W		Introduction
1	1/14/2022	F	Ch. 1 SC	Introduction
2	1/19/2022	W	Sections 1.1 & 1.3 WL	Academic ethos & Academic writing
2	1/21/2022	F		In-class <b>TW 1</b>
3	1/24/2022	M	Ch. 2 SC	Recursive process
3	1/26/2022	W	Ch. 3 WL	Recursive process
3	1/28/2022	F	Ch. 3 SC	Intro to FE 1
4	1/31/2022	M	Ch. 2 WL	Rhetoric
4	2/2/2022	W	Sections 5.3 & 5.4 WL	Rhetoric
4	2/4/2022	F	Ch. 6 SC	Rhetoric
5	2/7/2022	M		Work day
5	2/9/2022	W	<b>FE 1</b>	Position paper
5	2/11/2022	F		In-class <b>TW 2</b>
6	2/14/2022	M		Intro to FE 2
6	2/16/2022	W		TBD
6	2/18/2022	F		TBD

Week	Date	Day	Homework/Assignments **before class**	In-class
7	2/21/2022	M		Work day
7	2/23/2022	W		Work day
7	2/25/2022	F	<b>FE 2</b> Section 6.1 <i>WL</i>	The RPP and research questions
8	2/28/2022	M	<b>Research Question</b>	Research Question Workshop
8	3/2/2022	W	Section 8.1 <i>WL</i>	Looking for sources
8	3/4/2022	F	Section 8.2 <i>WL</i>	Evaluating sources
9	3/7/2022	M	Ch. 9 <i>WL</i>	Summarizing sources
9	3/9/2022	W	Sections A.1 & A.2 <i>WL</i>	Formatting sources
9	3/11/2022	F		Work day
10	3/21/2022	M	<b>Annotated Bibliography</b>	Thesis
10	3/23/2022	W	Ch. 10 <i>WL</i>	Outlining
10	3/25/2022	F	Ch. 11 <i>WL</i>	Integrating sources
11	3/28/2022	M	<b>Thesis</b>	Thesis Workshop
11	3/30/2022	W		Work day
11	4/1/2022	F	Ch. 4 <i>WL</i>	Work day
12	4/4/2022	M		Individual Conferences
12	4/6/2022	W		Individual Conferences
12	4/8/2022	F		Individual Conferences
13	4/11/2022	M		Work day
13	4/13/2022	W		Work day

Week	Date	Day	Homework/Assignments **before class**	In-class
14	4/18/2022	M	<b>RPP Draft</b>	Peer Review Workshop
14	4/20/2022	W		Editing
14	4/22/2022	F		Intro to FE 3
15	4/25/2022	M	<b>RPP Final</b>	
15	4/27/2029	W		Work day
15	4/29/2022	F	<b>FE 3</b>	Work day