

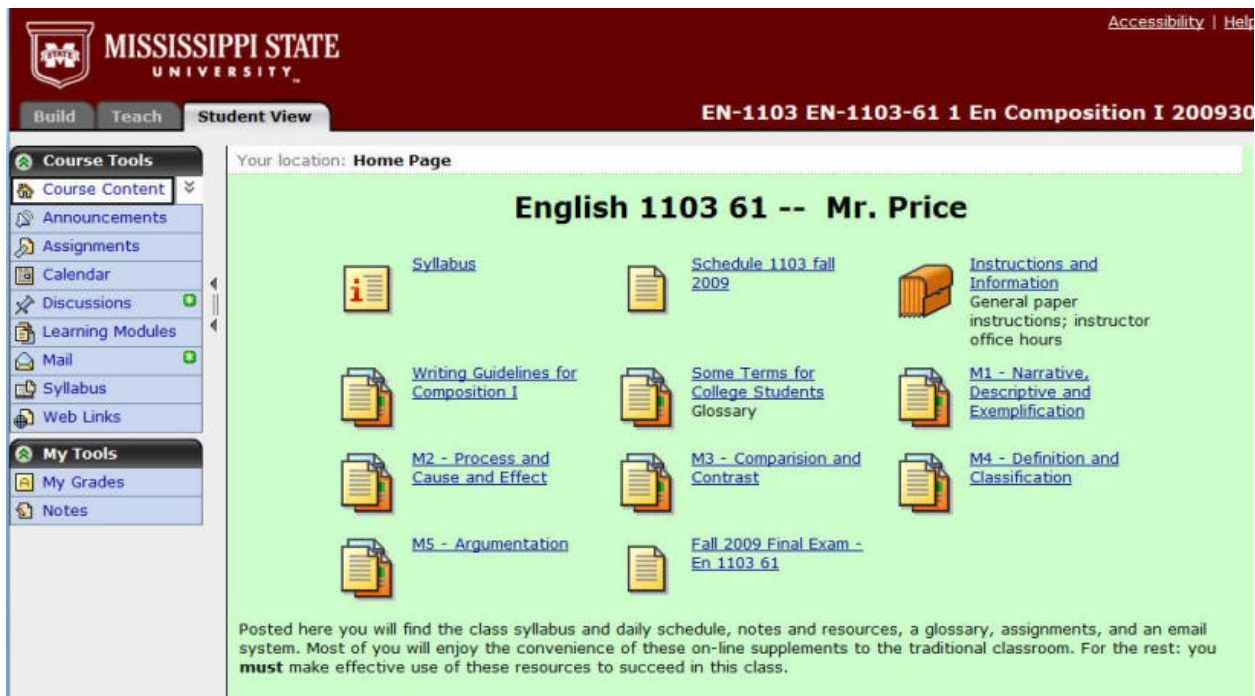
MyCourses

Mississippi State University employs a Blackboard Vista system called “MyCourses” to allow professors to deliver on-line course content and to receive assignments on-line. Most professors in the English department use MyCourses to deliver course syllabi and some handouts. Some use the MyCourses system quite extensively. You will find it advantageous to become quite comfortable with the features of MyCourses that may be utilized in all your classes.

You may access MyCourses through Banner on your computer, or directly by entering the url <https://mycourses.msstate.edu> .

You will log-in to MyCourses using your Mississippi State NetID and password, just as you would use for Banner.

Once logged in, you should find a list of all your classes which are using MyCourses. When you click on a class, you should reach a screen that looks something like this:

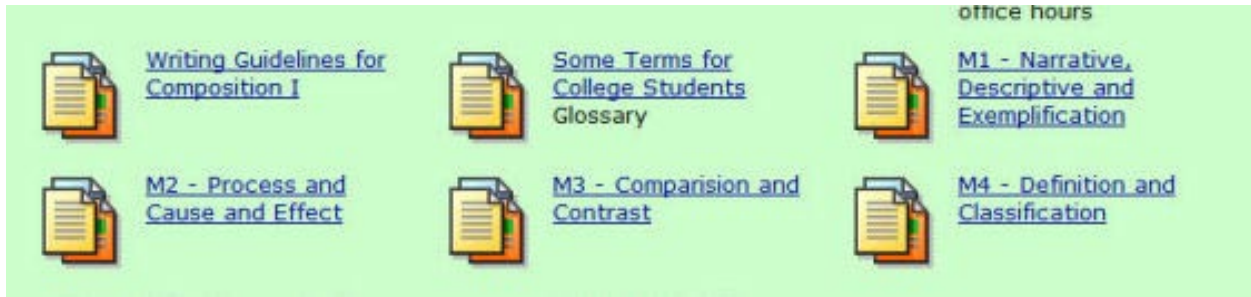


Some professors will use most of the features you see here. Many will utilize MyCourses for only a few tasks, such as posting the syllabus and handouts.

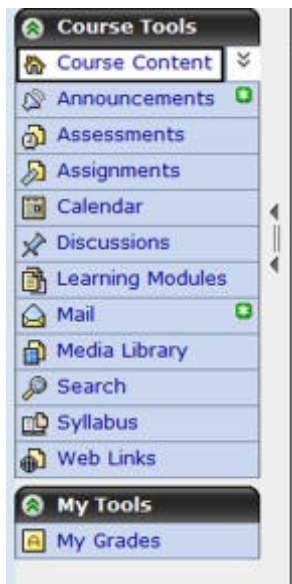
The section to the right on this page includes links to



and a range of class materials and links to on-line materials



Your professor may post writing guidelines, an appropriate glossary, written lecture notes, links to text materials or selected critical materials available on-line and other materials to supplement the textbook and her/his lectures.

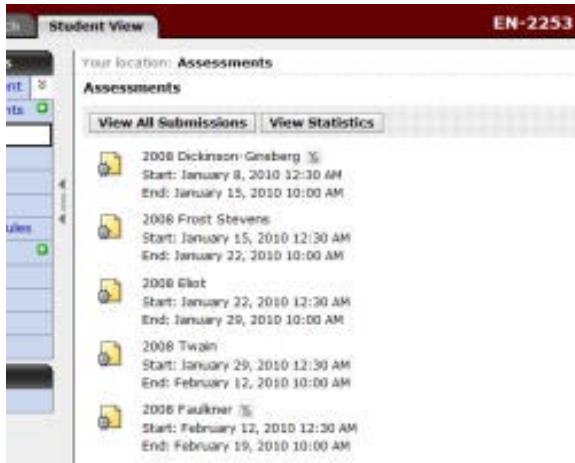


Depending on the MyCourses features your professor wishes to use, the left-hand index can include links to class announcements, quizzes and homework (assessments), a discussion board, an internal email system, and an assignment dropbox as well as links to the syllabus and sets of notes (learning modules). The professor also may post your grades, individually, throughout the term.

The **mail** feature allows you and your professor to communicate with each other within the MyCourses system. It works just like an email system but can only be used within MyCourses. It does not link to your regular email.

The **discussion** boards allow your professor to set up open discussions among class members. She or he may assign postings on class assignments to allow students to share ideas with each other.

The **Assessments** feature allows your professor to give tests and assign and collect homework through the MyCourses system. If your professor uses the Assessments feature to offer quizzes or homework, you would click on 'Assessments' to reach a screen that looks something like this:



Clicking on the open quiz will take you to a page of instructions. Your professor can set up a machine-graded objective quiz or test, or a short answer or short essay assignment that will be manually graded. The professor has the option to set time limits and allow or disallow retakes. You will want to read the instructions before beginning:



You would then click the “begin assessment” button and begin.

The **Assignment** feature is designed to allow students to submit major assignments, such as papers, using the MyCourses system. If your professor decides to accept electronic assignments, she/he will give you exact instructions as to formatting and means of submission. It is likely that your professor will ask you to produce your document in Microsoft Word and to submit the document as an attachment in Assignments. Do not submit a document type that has not been approved by your professor. Never submit an assignment as anything other than a Microsoft Word document unless you have received the specific approval of your professor.



After you have completed your assignment in the approved format and have saved your electronic copy to your computer, go to MyCourses and click on Assignments. You will reach a screen that should look something like this:



Your location: **Assignments**



Assignments



Inbox Submitted Graded Published

The Inbox tab contains new assignments or submissions returned to you for editing.

-  [Twain & Short Story Paper](#) 

Status: Individual Not Started (Due April 19, 2010 12:00 PM **Late**)
-  [Poetry Paper](#) 

Status: Individual Not Started (Due April 19, 2010 12:00 PM **Late**)
-  [Steinbeck Paper](#) 

Status: Individual Not Started (Due April 19, 2010 12:00 PM **Late**)
-  [Arthur Miller Paper](#) 

Status: Individual Not Started (Due April 19, 2010 12:00 PM **Late**)

Click on the proper assignment. You will reach a page that may look like this:

Your location: **Assignments** > **Edit Submission**

Edit Submission: Poetry Paper (Attempt 1)

Due Date: April 19, 2010 12:00 PM Status: In Progress (Attempt 1)
 Type: Work individually
 Grading Criteria: Grading Form out of 100 [Preview](#)

Instructions:

The Assignment:
 Write a clear, coherent, and thoughtful essay on one of the topics below. Your essays will be graded in accordance with the standards stated under 'grading' on WebCT and discussed in class. Please concern yourself with readability and accuracy as well as logic and creativity. **The paper must include appropriate reference to the primary work(s).**

Topics --- You must choose from this list :

- Compare the tone, mood, and message of Hart Crane's "To Brooklyn Bridge" with that of Walt Whitman's "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry." Deliberate parallels in the content should provide a vehicle for close comparison.
- Why does T.S. Eliot's fortune teller 'not see the Hanged Man'? This topic may be approached by an examination of Sir James Frazer's or Jessie Weston's notion of the sacrificial king or it may be approached by an examination of the drawing/desert imagery found in both "The Waste Land" and "The Hollow Men."
- Link the visual imagery of one of the following poems to Anne Dilard's notion of 'the tree with lights in it': "The Idea of Order at Key West"; "The Snow Man"; "Sunflower Sutra"; "Birches."
- How do the various passages in the collage "Middle Passage" serve to create a unified poem. Be specific, correctly identifying the various voices offered in the poem.
- Offer an interpretation of "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock." Your interpretation should provide a step beyond the sexual impotence suggestion I offer in the MyCourses gloss of the poem.

Attachments:

Submission: [Enable HTML Creator](#)

Use HTML [Add Attachments](#)

Add Comment:

[Submit](#) [Cancel](#) [Save as Draft](#)

If you have written a paper, it is almost certain that your professor will not want you to submit the paper in the 'submission' box, because the result would not be properly formatted and would be very difficult to grade. The professor will most likely want you to submit the paper as an

attachment. You would click the 'add attachments' button, locate the proper document that you have saved on your computer, and attach the paper to the page. Then press 'submit.'

You will receive a brief confirmation notice. Click 'okay.' The system then should return you to the assignments page and the default tab, "Inbox." Click the "**Submitted**" tab. The assignment you just submitted should be visible there. If it is not, you have done something wrong. Return to the inbox and see if the assignment is still visible there. If it is, you have failed to submit the assignment and need to try again.

If your professor grades your assignments on-line, you will find the graded paper, with whatever grading form or comments your professor provides, under the graded tab once the professor has completed marking it.

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Your professor may record your grades within the MyCourses system. If she/he does so, you may see your grades by clicking the "**MyGrades**" item in the left-hand index. You will reach a page that looks something like this:

Items	Grade	Statistics
Short Story Paper:		
Poetry Paper:	0.00 (out of 100.00)	View Statistics
	View Graded Grading Form	
Long Fiction Paper:		
Drama Paper:		
Research paper:		
Discussions:	10.00 (out of 140.00)	View Statistics
Class Participation:		
Final Exam:		
Final Grade:	(10.00)	View Statistics

(XX) - Indicates a grade that is partial or not complete

Your professor may also require that assignments be submitted electronically to "Turn-It-In." That is also done through MyCourses. The English department's instructions for Turn-It-In are posted at <http://www.msstate.edu/dept/english/misc/turnitin.pdf> .