

COS 1100-001 – Science Success Seminar

Tuesday's 10:10 AM – 11:00 AM, LANG 202

Instructor Contact

Name: Abdal Elkhroubi

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Office Location: NTDP E201 and GAB 330

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Office Hours: By appointment (request via email)

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Communication Expectations: Email is the most efficient way to get in touch with me and it will be how I reach out to you. If you have trouble accessing your UNT email, contact the UNT IT Helpdesk:

<https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk>

Course Description

COS 1100 is a first-year seminar course designed to support and enhance success in the College of Science and UNT by teaching and practicing healthy academic habits, connecting students to campus resources, and building a support network of peers, faculty, and staff.

Course Structure

This course will be held in person once a week. The seminar will consist of both in-class and Canvas discussions and assignments.

Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course:

1. Students will be able to identify learning strategies that foster academic success while maintaining academic integrity.
2. Students will have developed their degree knowledge and career readiness.
3. Students will be able to identify and utilize campus resources and opportunities.
4. Students will develop a strong, cohesive support system within the UNT community by embracing curiosity, humility, and an assets-based approach to life-long learning.

Course Technology & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computer
- Microsoft Office Suite (free for UNT students)
- Adobe Acrobat
- [Canvas Technical Requirements](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements) (<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>)

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

- Using Canvas
- Using email with attachments
- Downloading and uploading documents

- Using presentation and graphics programs

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT, we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technical issues.

UNT IT Help Desk

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Live Chat: <https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk/chatsupport>

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 330

Hours and Availability: Visit <https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk> for up-to-date hours and availability

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328) (<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- **Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.**
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. **Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings.** Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individuals’ experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

Course Grading Policy

All grades are final. Grades will not be rounded up (a 599.5 is an F, an 899.99 is a B). The grading structure for the course uses the point system and will be as follows:

A = 450 – 500 points

C = 350 – 399 points

F = 299 points or below

B = 400 – 449 points

D = 300 – 349 points

Assignments

All assignments (except in-class assignments) are due via Canvas by 11:59 PM on the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted. Canvas assignments must be typed unless otherwise directed.

**Assignments are subject to change, check Canvas for most up to date deadlines.*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Aug 18 th	1	Welcome, Syllabus, and Goals	Tell Me Your Why Due: Sun. Aug. 23 rd on Canvas
Aug 25 th	2	Campus Resources	UNT Goose Chase (In Class)
Sept 1 st	3	Time Management Attend On-Campus Event	Time Management Activity (In Class)
Sept 8 th	4	Study Smarter: Learning Styles Unleashed	
Sept 15 th	5	Academic Advising and Faculty/Staff Interactions	Academic Planning Sheet Due: Before Class on Sept. 22 nd
Sept 22 nd	6	Advising Workshop	Spring Classes Advising (In Class)
Sept 29 th	7	Health and Wellness	
Oct 6 th	8	Student Involvement Group Projects Assigned	Midpoint Semester Reflection Due: Sun. Oct. 11 th on Canvas
Oct 13 th	9	Major and Career Exploration	Group Project Presentation Idea Due: Sun. Oct. 18 th on Canvas
Oct 20 th	10	Communication and Public Speaking	Career Fair Next Week Oct. 27 th – 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Oct 27 th	11	Life Skills 101	Attend On-Campus Event Due: Sun. Oct. 25 th on Canvas
Nov 3 rd	12	Who Am I Now? Goals and Identity	Circles of My Multicultural Self (In Class)
Nov 10 th	13	Group Presentations	Group Project Presentation Paper Due: Sun. Nov. 8 th on Canvas
Nov 17 th	14	Group Presentations	
Nov 24 th	15	Thanksgiving (no class)	
Dec 1 st	16	Semester Reflections	Final Semester Reflection Due: Sun. Dec. 6 th on Canvas

Attendance/Participation (150 points)

You are expected to attend every class session on time and participate in every class discussion and assignment (10 points each week). Each week, we will have a discussion and/or lecture to which students must make a meaningful contribution through attendance and robust discussion. Regular attendance and active participation in class are required to make this course a successful and meaningful experience.

Tardiness in excess of 10 minutes will count as an absence. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the professor **before** being absent, so you and the professor can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

Tell Me Your Why, Midpoint, and Final Reflections (50 points each – 150 points total)

Students will write a self-reflection paper in response to prompts given by the instructor.

Attend On-Campus Event (75 points)

Campus and community involvement are crucial to retention and overall success. You are expected to attend at least one on-campus activity/event/program before the due date of the assignment. Students will submit a 300-word reflection paper detailing a brief description of the event they attended, what occurred during the event, and what was learned and/or gained from the event.

Mythbusting Team Project and Presentation (125 points)

You are a team of Mythbusters and are tasked with finding a myth or controversial topic within your area of interest. Utilize campus resources and conduct research on your topic that falls within the realm of general science, medical phenomenon, or anything else within STEM. Does chicken noodle soup really have an effect on minor illnesses? Can dirt be antimicrobial? Do we actually need 8 glasses of water a day? Work together in groups of 3-4 and create a 7–10-minute presentation to present on your topic.

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to, cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. Academic Integrity is outlined in the UNT Policy on Student Standards for Academic Integrity. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and sabotage. Any suspected cases of Academic Dishonesty will be addressed according to university policies and procedures. Penalties can range from a verbal or written warning to receiving an "F" grade in the course. More severe sanctions may be applied in cases of major violations. The relevant policy and procedures are available at: <https://vpaa.unt.edu/ss/integrity>.

Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence

Building on UNT's academic integrity policy, an originality score of more than 15% based on Turnitin (excluding references) will necessitate a rewrite and may prompt a one-on-one meeting with the instructor to understand the underlying reason for the score.

Additionally, to ensure all students have an equal opportunity to succeed and to preserve the integrity of the course, students are not permitted to submit text that is generated by artificial intelligence (AI) systems such as ChatGPT, Bing Chat, Claude, Google Bard, or any other automated assistance for any classwork or assessments. This includes using AI to generate answers to assignments, exams, or projects, or using AI to complete any other course-related tasks. Using AI in this way undermines your ability to develop critical thinking, writing, or research skills that are essential for this course and your academic success. Students may use AI as part of their research and preparation for assignments, or as a text editor, but text that is submitted must be written by the student. For example, students may use AI

to generate ideas, questions, or summaries that they then revise, expand, or cite properly. Students should also be aware of the potential benefits and limitations of using AI as a tool for learning and research. AI systems can provide helpful information or suggestions, but they are not always reliable or accurate. Students should critically evaluate the sources, methods, and outputs of AI systems. Violations of this policy will be treated as academic misconduct. If you have any questions about this policy or if you are unsure whether a particular use of AI is acceptable, please do not hesitate to ask for clarification.

Plagiarism

In this policy, “Plagiarism” refers to the use of another’s ideas or words without proper attribution in any academic work, regardless of intent, including but not limited to:

1. The knowing or negligent use of paraphrased or quoted material from published or unpublished works of others without full acknowledgment or citation, or
2. The knowing or negligent use of materials prepared by another person or an agency engaged in selling term papers or academic materials.

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to the faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodation at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member before implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website \(https://disability.unt.edu/\)](https://disability.unt.edu/).

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University’s expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT’s [Code of Student Conduct \(https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct\)](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students’ access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student’s Eagle Connect account. For more

information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect) (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14, and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website](http://spot.unt.edu/) (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email spot@unt.edu.

Survivor Advocacy

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648.

Academic Support & Student Services

Student Support Services

Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)
- [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>)

Chosen Names

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- [UNT Records](#)
- [UNT ID Card](#)
- [UNT Email Address](#)
- [Legal Name](#)

**UNT EUIDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.*

Pronouns

Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in person. Just as we ask and don't assume someone's name, we should also ask and not assume someone's pronouns.

You can [add your pronouns to your Canvas account](#) so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- [What are pronouns and why are they important?](#)
- [How do I use pronouns?](#)
- [How do I share my pronouns?](#)
- [How do I ask for another person's pronouns?](#)
- [How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?](#)