# ENGL 1310 Course Syllabus



ENGL 1310 | Fall 2025

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OFFICE | Room 543 in the Auditorium, via Zoom, or at Aura Coffee

Classroom: WH \_\_

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Pronouns | she/her

Office Hours | by appointment (email me and we’ll schedule!)

*“We edit to let the fire show through the smoke.”*

-Arthur Plotnik

**Books**

* *Steps to Writing Well.* Purchase through Cengage.com or Barnes & Noble (on campus) or Voertman’s Bookstore (On Hickory)
* *Write and Communicate Like a Professional.* Free PDF in Course Materials.
* **Highlighters - yellow, blue, pink, orange, and green (highlighters are required!)**

**Where to print at UNT**: <https://library.unt.edu/services/printing-scanning-copies/>

[Links to an external site.](https://library.unt.edu/services/printing-scanning-copies/)

**Writing Center (both in-person AND online!):**



[**https://writingcenter.unt.edu/**](https://writingcenter.unt.edu/)

[**https://unt.mywconline.com/ Links to an external site.**](https://unt.mywconline.com/)

We will uphold the following university policies in all English courses.

**University Policies**

All students and faculty are required to follow the policies below.

**Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences**

According to UNT Policy 06.003, [Student Academic Integrity](https://vpaa.unt.edu/fs/resources/academic/integrity)

[Links to an external site.](https://vpaa.unt.edu/fs/resources/academic/integrity)

, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to:

* Cheating--submitting work that is not your own (This include using ChatGPT and Grammarly)
* Fabrication--pretending you are writing about a real interview when you really made it up
* Facilitating academic dishonesty--helping someone else cheat
* Forgery--pretending your work is someone else's
* Plagiarism--using someone else's published work without citing it correctly
* Sabotage--setting someone else up to fail

A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. I am obligated to report any academic dishonesty.

**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](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct)

[Links to an external site.](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct)

. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

The [Dean of Students Office (opens in a new window)](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct)

[Links to an external site.](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct)

 enforces the [Code of Student Conduct (opens in a new window)](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012)

[Links to an external site.](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012)

. The Code explains:

* What conduct is prohibited
* The process the DOS uses to review reports of alleged misconduct by students
* The sanctions that can be assigned

When students may have violated the Code, they meet with a representative from the Dean of Students Office to discuss the alleged misconduct in an educational process.

**ADA Accommodation**

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. To receive accommodation, follow these steps:

1. Register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility.
2. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs.
3. Students may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation.
4. Students must obtain a new letter of accommodation every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website](https://disability.unt.edu/)
5. [Links to an external site.](https://disability.unt.edu/)
6. . You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

**Sexual Assault Prevention**

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
* Dean of Students Office: 940-565-2648

Visit [Title IX Student Information (opens in a new window)](https://edo.unt.edu/title-ix-student-information)

[Links to an external site.](https://edo.unt.edu/title-ix-student-information)

 for more resources.

**Undocumented Students**

Please see UNT'S  [Resources for DACA Students](https://www.unt.edu/daca)

[Links to an external site.](https://www.unt.edu/daca)

 web page for more information.

**Emergency Notification & Procedures**

UNT uses a system called [Eagle Alert](https://www.unt.edu/eaglealert)

[Links to an external site.](https://www.unt.edu/eaglealert)

 to quickly provide 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.

**First Year Writing (FYW) Policies**

## In addition to the policies provided by UNT, our department also has policies that we use to ensure that you are treated fairly.

## **Evaluation and Grading**

**Each Major Assignment is worth 20% of your grade. To earn a passing grade, you must complete each Major Assignment.**

**Major Assignment 1 | The Learning Narrative | 20% - Due Sunday, September 14th, by 11:59PM**

**Major Assignment 2 | The Observation Essay | 20%**

**Major Assignment 3 | The Analysis Essay | 20%**

**Major Assignment 4 | The Reflection | 20%**

*Note | To earn a passing grade, you must complete all major writing assignments.*

**Weekly Writing 10%**

**Attendance | 10%**

**Rubrics and Scoring Systems**

For the purposes of this course, we describe the grades you will be assigned in this way:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|   |   |
| A | 90-100 | Exceeds the assignment's requirements, has few to no errors. Shows a mastery of the concepts being taught. Is impressively sophisticated, inventive, balanced, justified, effective, mature, and expertly-situated in time and context. |
| B | 80-89 | Meets the assignment's requirements, has few errors. Shows high level of understanding of the concepts being taught. Skilled, revealing, developed, perceptive, but not unusually or surprisingly original. |
| C | 70-79 | Meets most of the assignment's requirements, has some errors. Shows some understanding of the concepts being taught. Coherent, significant, and perhaps even insightful in places, but ultimately challenged in organization, articulation, perception, and/or effectiveness. |
| D | 60-69 | Does not meet most of the assignment's requirements, has many errors. Shows low level of understanding of the concepts being taught. Offers an overall response that is incomplete and may be severely lacking: incoherent, limited, uncritical, immature, undeveloped, and overall not reflective of the performance expected of UNT undergraduates. |
| F | 59 or below | Does not meet the assignment's requirements. The number of errors impede the work's meaning. Shows no understanding of the concepts being taught. |

# **Program Values**

The assignments and activities for your course were designed carefully and are based on the following departmental values.

## **We develop our writing skills through inquiry, experimentation, and discovery.**

The act of writing encourages intellectual and personal development, and leads to greater knowledge retention, deep reflection, and empathy. Writing may teach us new ways to understand ourselves, our world, our communities, and others better. Through writing and listening to the writing of others, we grow intellectually, reflect deeply, and respond empathetically to vital issues facing ourselves, our communities, and our world.

## **When we write, we develop our ability to think critically about complex issues.**

Writing is a practice of responding clearly, concisely, and coherently to complex issues. Students studying writing develop their logical skills and learn strategies to address critical problems with precision and purpose.

## **Writing is a lifelong process supported by revision and reflection.**

Beyond traditional academic skills and rules of writing, writers develop flexible strategies to read, listen, plan, and collaborate with others by revisiting and reflecting on their writing experiences. Students studying writing learn to reflect on their own writing processes, which might include critical reading, planning, drafting, collaborating, revising, and reflecting, through multiple pages of drafted material.

## **Writing is a powerful tool and can give us agency to intervene in social issues.**

Writers intervene in their communities by addressing an audience's needs and concerns. Academic audiences expect writers to address difficult questions through well-researched writing that is supported with compelling evidence. Other kinds of audiences and communities expect writers to address their needs differently, through flexible rhetorical strategies that offer relevant and timely information.

## **Writing is integral to information literacy and critical reading.**

To write ethically and build credibility with audiences, writers must read sources carefully and know how to assess and use information effectively.

## **Writing is learned through effective and engaging teaching.**

The First-Year Writing program (FYW) at UNT provides its instructors with ongoing educational training to help them deliver effective and engaging instruction to students. UNT FYW acknowledges excellence in teaching and fosters a culture that facilitates thoughtful instruction and promotes student success.

# **Required Attendance and Your Final Grade**

You are required to attend class unless you are:

* Sick — your doctor told you not to attend
* Attending a university approved activity — sporting event, debate team, etc.
* Have an emergency — car accident, sick child or family member, etc.

According to the UNT First Year Writing Policy **no student missing more than 20% of classroom instruction in a first-year writing course should be able to pass the course.**

I will check your attendance at the start of every class period. And while I understand everyone gets sick or has emergencies, you must attend class regularly or your grade will be affected:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Number of Classes Missed** | **Effect on Grade** |
| 10% of total Classes — 3 classes  | I will deduct 5 points from your final grade for each additional class you miss. |
| 20% of total classes —6 classes | You will fail the course. |

*Note | If you are more than 15 minutes late, I will count you absent. If you leave more than 5 minutes early, I will count you absent.* Refrain from packing up until two minutes before class ends.

If you know ahead of time that you must miss class for a planned reason, see me as soon as possible to make arrangements.

# **Authorized Absences**

UNT authorizes absences for the following reasons as excusable by the university (policy 06.039):

* Religious holy day, including travel for that purpose
* Active military service, including travel for that purpose
* Participation in an official university function
* Illness or other extenuating circumstances
* Pregnancy and parenting under Title IX
* When the university is officially closed by the President

If you plan to miss class for one of the events above, please see me as soon as possible before the date of your absence, so we can arrange for you to submit work.

# **Communication Expectations**

Communication is key to your success. When you need to reach me follow these practices:

* Communicate with me formally through my UNT email address: annie.woods@unt.edu
* Include the course and section number in the subject line: 1310.062
* Use appropriate salutations and grammatical language: "Dear Professor Woods," or "Professor Woods,”
* Treat all emails as professional communication.
* **I do not respond to emails that fail to adhere to a professional format. I do not respond to emails generated by AI. This is to promote success in your academic and professional communication.**
* Respect the personal identities and privacy of yourself, of me, and others.
* Respect identities based on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and/or culture.
* Think carefully about what you reveal and do not reveal, particularly if this information involves your health and/or classroom performance. If your emails contain any information that causes me to be concerned for your safety, or the safety of others, I will report it.
* Refrain from making personal attacks or using language that discriminates based on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and/or culture.

*Note | I am not able to discuss any information relating to academic records through email.*

**Here is an example of an appropriate email addressed to me:**

To: annie.woods@unt.edu

CC: awoodsedu@gmail.com

Subject Line: Regarding Family Emergency and Learning Narrative Extension

Hello Professor Woods,

I hope you're doing well. I am reaching out to request an extension for the Learning Narrative. I have been dealing with a family emergency, and I don't feel confident with the assignment requirements. If possible, a three-day extension would really help me with this assignment. In addition, can you give me more feedback on my Learning Narrative rough draft? I am having an especially difficult time with the conclusion.

Please let me know if you need any further clarification on my circumstances. I am also willing to meet with you via Zoom to discuss this issue.

Thank you,

John Doe

ENGL 1310.062

 **Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback**

My responsibility as your instructor is to:

* Challenge you
* Help you understand the course material.
* Help you grow and learn as a student.

To achieve these goals, I will:

* Provide clear instructions for projects and assignments.
* Answer your questions.
* Identify additional resources as necessary.
* Provide substantive feedback on your written work within two weeks of the submission date for each assignment.

 **Disruptions**

Respect the class environment by using your time effectively and helping your classmates do the same. Please avoid

* Wearing headphones (unless instructor allows it for an assignment)
* Using your phone
* Using your personal computer for purposes other than class
* Eating a full meal—small snacks are okay
* Holding side conversations

 **Participation and Civility**

We are all members of an academic community where it is our shared responsibility to cultivate a climate where all students/individuals are valued and where both they and their ideas are treated with respect.

Therefore, I expect you to conduct yourself in a professional and respectful manner during all online interactions and class-­related activities. I expect you to listen to and respect the viewpoints of others, even if you strongly disagree with them. When you do voice disagreement in your writing, do so in a civil manner. Remember that you are accountable for your actions in this course, including your submitted work, your grades, and your interactions with me and with other students.

Everyone will have multiple opportunities to participate in class. Participation can be many things, including the following:

* Participating actively in small group work, class meetings, and discussions
* Showing attention to others in discussion posts
* Completing all assignments on time
* Coming prepared to conferences/office hours

Here are some of the “Rules of Engagement” UNT recommends as guidelines for our class:

* While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of 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 individual’s experiences.
* Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
* 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.

You also can visit the [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips)

[Links to an external site.](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips)

 page at <https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips>

[Links to an external site.](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips)

 for more information.

 **Using Canvas**

Canvas is an important tool to help you succeed, and we will use it extensively:

* Submit all assignments through Canvas including quizzes, discussions, weekly writings, and major assignments.
* Check Announcements at least once a day. I will communicate important about our course as an announcement.

All students have access to Canvas through their UNT accounts. For more information on using Canvas,

* See <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>
* [Links to an external site.](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701)
* .
* Direct questions regarding your use of the Canvas learning management system, to the student help desk at:
	+ Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
	+ Phone: 940-565-2324.
* Make plans to have a backup way to access the technology each week: another computer; the local library, or one of UNT's open access computer labs. Not having access to the course will not excuse you from the workload each week.

 **Formatting Your Assignments**

All written work needs to be typed and submitted online to Canvas. For all essays,

* Include your name and the page number on the top right of each page (i.e.: Lastname 1)
* Include a date and the course number: ENGL 1310 on the top left of each page.
* **Use Times New Roman 12 point, with one-inch (1”) margins, and double-spacing.**

 **Late or Missed Assignments**

I will follow these policies when deciding whether to accept late work:

* All papers are due by the date specified in Canvas.
* If you need extra time on a paper, you must request your extension at least 24 hours before the paper is due.
* **I do not accept late papers.**
* **You cannot pass the course if you have not received a grade for all major assignments.**
* Meet with me as soon as possible if you miss a deadline for an assignment.

# **AI Usage in FYW**

# **Unacceptable Uses of AI**

# · Do not submit any AI generated material as your own. This is recognized as plagiarism by UNT.

# · Do not use AI to identify or correct any specific errors in your work. This is considered academic dishonesty by UNT. For example, do not submit a paper with this prompt: “Find and correct every grammar and punctuation error.”

# · Do not use AI to translate your work from one language to another.

# Consequences for Unacceptable Use of AI

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Action** | **Consequence** |
| **Copying and pasting AI generated work and submitting it as your own writing.** | **Whether you copy and paste an entire paper, or just a few sentences, you will receive a zero for the assignment.** |
| **Using AI to find and correct your errors.** | **You will receive a zero for the assignment.** |
| **Using AI to translate your work from one language to another.** | **You will receive a zero for the assignment.** |

# No policy can cover every possible scenario for AI, so when in doubt about whether how you plan to use AI is acceptable or not, contact your instructor immediately.

# **To ensure that you understand this policy, and will follow the guidelines listed, please sign and submit the form your instructor gives you. Your in-class writing will be compared to your online writing.**

#

# **AI Usage Agreement**

# **As a member of the academic community ENGL 1310, I understand the importance of using AI in an ethical and responsible manner. I understand that creating and submitting my own original work allows me to grow and develop as a reader, writer, and thinker. Using AI to write or revise any portion of my assignments submitted for this course is considered cheating and will be subject to the consequences of plagiarism outlined in UNT’s academic integrity policy.**

# By signing this form, you acknowledge that you have read and understood our AI Usage Policy. If you do not understand any part of the policy, please ask your instructor for help before you sign this document.

# **Signature Date**

#

# **Public Writing**

All your submitted writing for this course, including prewriting, drafts, in-class assignments, and final projects, is public writing. The writing that you submit in this course may be viewed by me and possibly your classmates as well. Please do not submit any information about yourself that you do not want to be public.

 **Syllabus Change Policy**

I have made every attempt to provide your syllabus as an accurate overview of the course. However, unanticipated circumstances may make it necessary for me to modify the syllabus during the semester. These circumstances may arise in response to the progress, needs, and experiences of students. Advance notice will be given for any changes made to the syllabus.

# Technical Requirements & Skills

Because much of the work, you must have the correct tools:

* Computer with word processing capabilities, internet access, and web browser
* [Canvas Technical Requirements](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements)
* [Links to an external site.](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements)
* (<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>
* [Links to an external site.](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements)
* )

# **Computer Skills & Digital Literacy**

Students in this course should be able to

* Use Canvas
* Use email with attachments

# **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 me know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT:

* [UNT Records](https://registrar.unt.edu/transcripts-and-records/update-your-personal-information)
* [Links to an external site.](https://registrar.unt.edu/transcripts-and-records/update-your-personal-information)
* [UNT ID Card](https://sfs.unt.edu/idcards)
* [Links to an external site.](https://sfs.unt.edu/idcards)
* [UNT Email Address](https://sso.unt.edu/idp/profile/SAML2/Redirect/SSO;jsessionid=E4DCA43DF85E3B74B3E496CAB99D8FC6?execution=e1s1)
* [Links to an external site.](https://sso.unt.edu/idp/profile/SAML2/Redirect/SSO;jsessionid=E4DCA43DF85E3B74B3E496CAB99D8FC6?execution=e1s1)
* [Legal Name](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
* [Links to an external site.](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)

\*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, he/him, they/them, 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](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-18406-42121184808)

[Links to an external site.](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-18406-42121184808)

 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?](https://www.mypronouns.org/what-and-why)
* [Links to an external site.](https://www.mypronouns.org/what-and-why)
* [How do I use pronouns?](https://www.mypronouns.org/how)
* [Links to an external site.](https://www.mypronouns.org/how)
* [How do I share my pronouns?](https://www.mypronouns.org/sharing)
* [Links to an external site.](https://www.mypronouns.org/sharing)
* [How do I ask for another person’s pronouns?](https://www.mypronouns.org/asking)
* [Links to an external site.](https://www.mypronouns.org/asking)
* [How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?](https://www.mypronouns.org/mistakes)
* [Links to an external site.](https://www.mypronouns.org/mistakes)

# **CORE Requirements Fulfillment**

ENGL 1310 meets one of your CORE Communication requirements. The state defines "communication" as:

Focus on developing ideas and expressing them clearly, considering the effect of the message, fostering understanding and building the skills needed to communicate persuasively. Courses involve the command of oral, aural, written and visual literacy skills that enable people to exchange messages appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience.

This course has four objectives:

* Critical Thinking Skills | innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
* Communication Skills | effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
* Teamwork | ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
* Personal Responsibility | ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

**Required Readings:**

* **Steps to Writing Well (SWW)**
* **Write and Communicate Like a Professional (WCLP)**

*“I went to college because I didn’t have anywhere else to go and it was a fabulous hang. And while I was there, I was exposed to this world that I didn’t know was possible.”*

–Tom Hanks