**JOUR 3315 Fall 2025   
Video News Research and Reporting**

**Brittany Pieper McElroy**Office: Chilton 140B (Exterior entrance around the back of the building near the journalism equipment checkout)  
Email: brittany.mcelroy@unt.edu  
Fall 2025 Office Hours:  
Mondays 10:30-11:50 a.m. and Thursdays 9-10:30 in Chilton 140B

**Required:** A flash drive or external hard drive to save work and SD Cards to shoot video

**COURSE OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTATIONS:**   
In this class, you will learn the basics of how to shoot, write and edit news for online, radio and TV news outlets. You will learn how to write quickly in a conversational style that is accurate.

Upon successful completion of the class you should be able to:

1. Understand basic research skills as they apply to finding information needed for news stories
2. Exercise "story commitment" and demonstrate a narrow story focus and planned shooting and reporting schedule
3. Operate a broadcast quality video camera and accessories
4. Shoot, write and edit a multiple source TV news package
5. Be able to create open records requests
6. Understand basic excel operations to assist in using data for journalism

This class is meant to immerse you into what is expected of journalists today: Flexibility and ability to write across platforms **ON DEADLINE.**

**ALL WORK** FOR THIS CLASS **MUST BE ORIGINAL** FOR THIS CLASS AND NOT REPURPOSED FOR ANOTHER CLASS. NO WORK FROM ANOTHER CLASS COUNTS AS CREDIT FOR THIS CLASS.

You may not use any faculty or staff as sources for your work in this class without permission from the professor. You may not interview fellow students in this class (including other sections), unless otherwise instructed. As a journalist, you are expected to be brave enough to talk to strangers.

**WORK REQUIREMENTS:  
Practice Assignments-** These assignments allow you to practice the skills we learn in class before you must apply them to reporting projects.

**Story #1-** Find a story through a seemingly “boring” source- a meeting or agenda. Then develop that story to take it past the meeting and show how it effects people. Examples of where you could start include city council, school board, county commissioners, etc. In addition to the video story you will also need to turn in a pitch/plan and a short write up explaining how you applied the concepts discussed in class.

**Story #2-** Choose one of the types of stories we have talked about in class (ex: courts/crime, politics, health, education, environment, business, race, religion, sports) and do an ISSUE driven video news package on that story. In addition to the video story you will also need to turn in a pitch/plan and a short write up explaining how you applied the concepts discussed in class.

**Story #3-** You will turn in a well-researched story that uses raw data and/or records requests. In addition to the video news package, you will turn in a story pitch/plan and a write-up that explains your reporting process and how you applied concepts learned in class to your reporting.

**HOW GRADES ARE WEIGHTED:**Practice Assignments (several)- 25%  
Story #1 - 20%  
Story #2 - 25%  
Story #3 - 30%

**LATE WORK POLICY:** Any late work will be penalized 10 points per day it is late. I will be very strict about the late work policy unless you can provide a documented excused absence such as illness or a death in the family. If at all possible, I should receive any excused absence/late work reasons BEFORE the assignment is due.

**EXTRA CREDIT/GRADE BUMPING:** I do NOT offer extra credit in this class. However, I do bump grades for students who have put in the effort to attend most classes and turn in all assignments. If you have an 89.9, but have missed half of the classes- your grade will stand at a B. If you have any outstanding assignments, your grade will not get bumped up.

**ATTENDENCE:** The material covered in this class is primarily presented through lectures, so class attendance is important. That being said, I realize sometimes things happen and you must miss a class. I will allow four unexcused absences with no penalty to your grade. If you have more than that, your grade will drop by one letter grade. Excused absences with documentation will not count against you. Attendance and turning in all assignments are also the main factors I look at when considering if I will bump grades up at the end of the semester.

**EQUIPMENT USAGE:** Any audio or video equipment for this class will be checked out from the Equipment Room in Chilton. Most equipment is available to journalism students for 24-hour check-outs. Failure to return equipment on time will result in the loss of use of the equipment for a designated time period. It may affect your final course grade (point deductions determined by instructor).

**CLOTHING/APPEARANCE DURING REPORTING ASSIGNMENTS:** One of your jobs during this semester is interviewing people for your news stories. Consequently, you are required to wear ***appropriate*** clothing to do so. Nice jeans, slacks, skirts, etc. Be smart about your shoe choices, choose comfort over style. If you would wear it to the gym or as pajamas, it isn’t appropriate to where when interviewing sources. You are learning how professional journalists work.

**SAFETY:** Journalism is a craft that requires a high level of courage and instinct. During this course, you will go to places on and off campus. Pay attention to your surroundings and personal safety at all times. Sometimes you will work in teams. Other times you will work by yourself. Do not go alone at night. When you are on assignment, let someone know in advance where you are going and when you’ll be back. Before you go to cover a story, think about how you can stay safe. Use your instincts. If something or someone does not appear “safe,” do not go there.

**EMAIL COMMUNICATION:** Communicating with students using the UNT student email account is part of the university’s contract with students. Electronic communication with students in this class will be through the students’ myunt accounts rather than personal accounts, so be sure you regularly check your myunt email.

**GUIDANCE ON ZOOM INTERVIEWS:** In person interviews should be your default, but if you find you need to record a video interview on Zoom, YOU MUST GET APPROVAL FROM ME FIRST. If you use Zoom to conduct interviews, you should NOT record your computer screen with your camera. You should record the interview using the record function within the Zoom platform. If you do not know how to do this, make sure you ask BEFORE you do the interview. Even though it is on Zoom, I will still take off points for poor framing or lighting. You might need to help coach your interviews on framing and lighting to help them look presentable in a video format. Don’t be afraid to kindly ask them to adjust their position. This video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSOsW28yS-0> might be helpful in getting them to understand how to light themselves.

**GUIDANCE ON B-ROLL FROM OTHER SOURCES:** If you plan to use visuals other than video you shot yourself on any reporting assignments, you MUST discuss it with me BEFORE turning the assignment in. This includes file footage from CNN or video/pictures not shot by you.

**AI USAGE:** Because this is a writing class, you may not use artificial intelligence to write any assignments for this course. If you use AI in some other way (grammar check, generating ideas, etc., please disclose how you used it at the end of the assignment. Failure to do so could result in a 0 on any assignment. You may also not use AI to create any video without express approval from the professor BEFORE the assignment is due. In accordance with the UNT Honor Code, unauthorized use of GenAI tools is prohibited. Using GenAI content without proper credit or substituting your own work with GenAI undermines the learning process and violates UNT academic integrity policy. If you're unsure whether something is allowed, please seek clarification.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE:**

**\*Subject to change based on needs of the class**

**WEEK 1**

Tues Aug 19- Class Intro, What makes good Journalism/research and reporting, PRIMARY SOURCES, Both human and not

Thurs Aug 21- Resources for finding professional sources and how to actively listen

DUE: Intro Letter, See Canvas for readings links

**WEEK 2**

Tues Aug 26- How to cover local government

Thurs Aug 28- How to cover state/federal government

DUE: Use City of Denton Friday update to find a story idea, See Canvas for readings links

**WEEK 3**

Tues Sept 2- How to cover elections

Wed Sept 4- How to cover education

DUE: See Canvas for readings links

**WEEK 4**

Tues Sept 9- How to cover health/healthcare systems

Thurs Sept 11- How to cover energy/environment

DUE: See Canvas for readings links, Story #1 Pitch/Plan

**WEEK 5**

Tues Sept 16- How to cover Business

Thurs Sept 18- Covering sports issues

DUE: See Canvas for readings links

**WEEK 6**

Tues Sept 23- Guest Speaker (This date is subject to change based on when recruiters visit campus. If it does, we will shift another lecture up to this date, and I will send an updated schedule as an announcement on Canvas.)

Thurs Sept 25- Story 1 Workday

DUE: See Canvas for reading links, Story #1

**WEEK 7**

Tues Sept 30- How to cover courts and crime when the crime happens

Thurs Oct 2- How to cover courts and crime, justice systems

DUE: See Canvas for reading links, Story #2 pitch/plan

**WEEK 8**

Tues Oct 7- How to cover sensitive topics

Thurs Oct 9- How to cover protests/civil unrest

DUE: See Canvas for reading links

**WEEK 9**

Tues Oct 14- Story #1 In class critiques

Thurs Oct 16- Story # 2 Workday

DUE: See Canvas for reading links, Story # 2 Due

**WEEK 10**

Tues Oct. 21- Intro to Investigative and Effective Records Requests

Thurs Oct 23- NO CLASS (I will be out of town for my sister’s wedding), use this time to work on your records request assignment

DUE: See Canvas for reading links, Complete records request

**WEEK 11**

Tues Oct 28- Data, Computer assisted reporting skills, Data Practice Assignment in class

Thurs Oct 30- Using Data Viz/AI tools

DUE: See Canvas for reading links, Data Practice Pitch

**WEEK 12**

Tues Nov 4- NO CLASS- Elections Reporting Assignment

Thurs Nov 6- Story #2 in class critiques

DUE: See Canvas for reading links, Story #3 Pitch and Plan

**WEEK 13**

Tues Nov 11- How to cover trauma/tragedy/breaking news

Thurs Nov 13- Who you gonna call?

DUE: See Canvas for reading links, work on final story

**WEEK 14**

Tues Nov 18- Resumes and Reels

Thurs Nov 20- Resumes and Reels

DUE: See Canvas for reading links, Semester feedback reflection

**WEEK 15**

Tues Dec 2- Understanding the TV news business

Thurs Dec 4- Class Wrap-up/ Story #3 Workday

DUE: Nothing- work on final projects

**FINALS WEEK:**

**TUESDAY, DEC 9- STORY #3 DUE**

# JOURNALISM REQUIREMENTS & GUIDELINES

## JOURNALISM COURSE REGISTRATION

* By registering for this course, you are stating that you have taken the required prerequisites according to your catalog year and major/minor status. If the instructor later determines that you haven’t taken and passed these requirements, then you may be dropped at any point in the semester. If you have questions about your prerequisites, please see an advisor.
* A journalism major enrolled in any restricted 3000 and 4000 level classes must have taken and passed all foundational courses. Students must earn and maintain a 2.5 UNT and/or overall GPA (depending upon catalog year) to be eligible for major-level courses.

## RE-TAKING FAILED JOURNALISM CLASSES

Students will not be allowed to automatically take a failed journalism course more than two times. Once you have failed a journalism course twice, you will not be allowed to enroll in that course for one calendar year after the date you received the second failing grade. Once a student has waited one calendar year after failing a course twice, the student may submit a written appeal to the director to be approved to enroll a third time. Students will not be allowed to re-take a failed journalism course more than three times.

## TEXTBOOK POLICY

The Mayborn School of Journalism doesn’t require students to purchase textbooks from the University Bookstore. Many are available through other bookstores or online.

There is no textbook for this course, but you are expected to complete readings listed in Canvas.

## OFFICE HOURS

I’ll be in my office from 10:30 to 11:50 a.m. on Mondays and 9-10:45 a.m. on Thursdays. Other office hours are available by appointment.

## ATTENDANCE

The material covered in this class is primarily presented through lectures, so class attendance is important. That being said, I realize sometimes things happen and you must miss a class. I will allow four unexcused absences with no penalty to your grade. If you have more than that, your grade will drop by one letter grade. Excused absences with documentation will not count against you. Attendance and turning in all assignments are also the main factors I look at when considering if I will bump grades up at the end of the semester.

## FINANCIAL AID SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) UNDERGRADUATES

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per semester. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose financial aid eligibility.

**If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so has the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility**.

Please visit [UNT Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements) (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements>) for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for you to schedule a meeting with your MSOJ academic advisor or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

## ACADEMIC ADVISING

All first-time-in-college students at UNT are required to schedule an appointment with their Academic Advisor and receive an advising code to register for classes both fall and spring semesters of the first year in college. ALL students should meet with their Academic Advisor at least one time per long semester (Fall & Spring). It is important to update your degree plan on a regular basis to ensure that you are on track for a timely graduation.

**It is imperative that students have paid for all enrolled classes. Please check your online schedule daily through late registration to ensure you have not been dropped for non-payment of any amount.**  Students have been unknowingly dropped from classes for various reasons such as financial aid, schedule change fees, parking fees, etc. MSOJ will not be able to reinstate students for any reason after late registration, regardless of situation. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure all payments have been made.

## A green and white calendar with white text AI-generated content may be incorrect.

## Accreditation

The Mayborn, which is one of over 100 journalism programs across the world that are accredited, is renewing its credentials this year. Accreditation is important to you because it means your degree is more valuable than one that comes from an unaccredited school.

Accreditation has profound benefits. Accredited programs may offer scholarships, internships, competitive prizes, and other activities unavailable in non-accredited programs.

Accreditation also provides an assurance of quality and rigorous standards to students, parents, and the public. Students in an accredited program can expect to find a challenging curriculum, appropriate resources and facilities, and a competent faculty.

Accreditation is our promise to our students that you will receive the best education possible in journalism and mass communication. With today’s technology, anyone can present information to a mass audience. But not all are trained in the creation of ethical messages that reach and serve diverse audiences that our standards uphold. What you learn in an accredited program makes you more marketable and your degree more valuable!

The Mayborn School’s accreditation is determined by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC) through an extensive evaluation process. Accreditation by the ACEJMC council means we embrace the value of a broad, multidisciplinary curriculum that nurtures critical thinking, analytic reasoning and problem-solving skills that are the essential foundation for all mass communication education.

## Adobe Access

UNT has a contract with Adobe. The following link contains all the information that students will need to purchase a subscription, and opt-out of an existing agreement that is at a higher price: <https://cvad.unt.edu/cvad-it-services/it-services-adobe-cloud-access.html>

The email address for students to ask questions or report problems is [adobe@unt.edu](mailto:adobe@unt.edu).

## JOURNALISM EQUIPMENT CHECK OUT

Checkout length for the **Canon Mirrorless Camera, Batteries, Lighting Gear, Mirrorless Tripods, Individual Lenses, and Accessories** can be checked out up to 72 hours.

To checkout a **Canon Mirrorless Camera and items listed above** longer than 72 hours, the Professor for the course will need to approve the request.

Checkout length for the **Panasonic Video Camera, Batteries, SDXC, and Tripods** can be checked out up to 24 hours.

To checkout a **Panasonic Video Camera and items listed above** longer than the specified time hours, the Professor for the course will need to approve the request.

Please send extended reservations approval from the Professor to the following email: [mayborn-equipment@unt.edu](mailto:mayborn-equipment@unt.edu)

**Journalism Equipment Room - Location and Contact Information**

The Journalism equipment room is located at **Chilton Hall 410 S. Ave. C, Room 155.**

Equipment room phone number is **940-565-3580.**

Equipment room email is [mayborn-equipment@unt.edu](mailto:mayborn-equipment@unt.edu)**.**

Equipment room supervisor can be reached at [ladaniel.maxwell@unt.edu](mailto:ladaniel.maxwell@unt.edu)

**Journalism Equipment Room - Operating Hours**

Monday/Wednesday: 9 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday/Thursday: 9 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sat-Sun: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**Journalism Equipment Room - Agreement Form**

Anyone who plans to check out equipment during the semester must complete the checkout agreement form found below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/q9fakNFTM8>

This form should be completed prior to checking out equipment and only needs to be done once per semester.

**Journalism Equipment Room - Late Returns/Abuse of Checkout Policy**

For every hour the student is late; a ban will be placed on the student's account accumulating the same amount of time.

A **ban** restricts the student from checking out any equipment within the Journalism Equipment Room.

For example, if the student returns equipment 2 hours late, a 2 hour ban will be placed on the student's account.

If the student returns equipment 72 hours late, a 72 hour ban will be placed on the student's account.

If you are going to be late or unable to return equipment that you checked out on time, please email [mayborn-equipment@unt.edu](mailto:mayborn-equipment@unt.edu)or[ladaniel.maxwell@unt.edu](mailto:ladaniel.maxwell@unt.edu)

## ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Understanding the academic organizational structure and appropriate Chain of Command is important when resolving class-related or advising issues. When you need problems resolved, please follow the steps outlined below:

|  |
| --- |
| Individual Faculty Member/Advisor  Associate Dean, Mayborn School of Journalism  Dean, Mayborn School of Journalism |

## OFFICE OF DISABILITY ACCess

The University of North Texas and the Mayborn School of Journalism make reasonable academic accommodation 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 you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You 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. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class.

**Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student.**

For additional information see the website for the [Office of Disability Access](file:///\\cas-shared.unt.ad.unt.edu\SHARED\JOUR\FACSTAFF\ADMINISTRATIVE\COURSES\COURSE%20SYLLABI%20&amp;%20ATTACHMENTS\SYLLABI%20ATTACHMENTS\2021-2022\SPRING%202022\Office%20of%20Disability%20Access) (<http://www.unt.edu/oda>). You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

## COURSE SAFETY STATEMENTS

Students in the Mayborn School of Journalism are urged to use proper safety procedures and guidelines. While working in laboratory sessions, students are expected and required to identify and use property safety guidelines in all activities requiring lifting, climbing, walking on slippery surfaces, using equipment and tools, handling chemical solutions and hot and cold products. Students should be aware that the University of North Texas is not liable for injuries incurred while students are participating in class activities. All students are encouraged to secure adequate insurance coverage in the event of accidental injury. Students who do not have insurance coverage should consider obtaining Student Health Insurance for this insurance program. Brochures for this insurance are available in the UNT Health and Wellness Center on campus. Students who are injured during class activities may seek medical attention at the UNT Health and Wellness Center at rates that are reduced compared to other medical facilities. If you have an insurance plan other than Student Health Insurance at UNT, please be sure that your plan covers treatment at this facility. If you choose not to go to the UNT Health and Wellness Center, you may be transported to an emergency room at a local hospital. You are responsible for expenses incurred there.

## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or exams; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor, the acquisition of tests or other material belonging to a faculty member, dual submission of a paper or project, resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructors, or any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. Plagiarism includes the paraphrase or direct quotation of published or unpublished works *without* full and clear acknowledgment of the author/source. Academic dishonesty will bring about disciplinary action which may include expulsion from the university. This is explained in the UNT Student Handbook.

You also may not “Double Dip” or turn in work for this class that you have also turned in for another journalism class. If you are caught breaking and Academic Integrity/Honesty Policies, you will receive a 0 on that assignment. If it happens more than once in a class, you will fail the class.

You may NOT use AI on any assignments without prior permission from the professor.

## MSOJ ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

The codes of ethics from the Society of Professional Journalists, American Advertising Federation and Public Relations Society of America address truth and honesty. The Mayborn School of Journalism embraces these tenets and believes that academic dishonesty of any kind – including plagiarism and fabrication – is incongruent with all areas of journalism. The school’s policy aligns with UNT Policy 06.003 and requires reporting any act of academic dishonesty to the Office for Academic Integrity for investigation. If the student has a previous confirmed offense (whether the first offense was in the journalism school or another university department) and the student is found to have committed another offense, the department will request the additional sanction of removing the student from the Mayborn School of Journalism. The student may appeal to the Office for Academic Integrity, which ensures due process and allows the student to remain in class pending the appeal.

## FINAL EXAM POLICY

Final exams will be administered at the designated times during the final week of each long semester and during the specified day of each summer term. Please check the course calendar early in the semester to avoid any schedule conflicts. There is no final exam for this class. Instead, you will turn in a final reporting project.

## ACCESS TO INFORMATION

As you know, your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs within the [My.UNT site](http://www.my.unt.edu/)([www.my.unt.edu](http://www.my.unt.edu)). If you do not regularly check EagleConnect or link it to your favorite e-mail account, please so do, as this is where you learn about job and internship opportunities, MSOJ events, scholarships, and other important information. Visit the [Eagle Connect website](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/) for more information (<http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/>) including tips on how to forward your email.

## Courses in a Box

Any MSOJ equivalent course from another university must receive prior approval from the MSOJ academic advisor to ensure that all MSOJ degree plan requirements are met. For example, courses that are taken online or from a program that offers course material via CD, booklet, or other manner of correspondence must have prior advisor approval.

## Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in multiple on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student’s responsibility to do the following:

(1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Advising Office. The UNT International Advising Office has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, students should contact the UNT International Advising Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email [international@unt.edu](mailto:international@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

## EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in an event of 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. If Canvas is not accessible during the emergency, contact me via email or phone for more information. Students should confirm that their Eagle Alert contact information is correct via the myUNT portal.

## STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF TEACHING (SPOT)

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The short SPOT survey will be made available to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. You will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" ([no-reply@iasystem.org](mailto:no-reply@iasystem.org)) with the survey link. Please look for the email in your UNT email inbox.  Simply click on the link and complete your survey.  Once you complete the survey you will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website](http://www.spot.unt.edu/) ([www.spot.unt.edu](http://www.spot.unt.edu)) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto:spot@unt.edu). Spots survey dates:

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| --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Survey Administration Dates** |
| [Regular Academic Session](https://vpaa.unt.edu/spot/calendars/fall-calendars/fall-regular.html) | November 11 - December 04 |
| [8W1](https://vpaa.unt.edu/spot/calendars/fall-calendars/fall-8w1.html) | September 30 - October 09 |
| [8W2](https://vpaa.unt.edu/spot/calendars/fall-calendars/fall-8w2.html) | December 02 - December 11 |

## 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 classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.  The Code of Student Conduct can be found on the [Dean Of Students website](http://www.deanofstudents.unt.edu/) ([www.deanofstudents.unt.edu](http://www.deanofstudents.unt.edu)).

## Classroom Policies

The Mayborn School of Journalism requires that students respect and maintain all university property. Students will be held accountable through disciplinary action for any intentional damages they cause in classrooms. (e.g., writing on tables). Disruptive behavior is not tolerated (e.g., arriving late, leaving early, sleeping, talking on the phone, texting or game playing, making inappropriate comments, ringing cellular phones/beepers, dressing inappropriately).

## SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARRASSMENT, & ASSAULT

UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

[UNT’s Dean of Students’ website](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0) (<http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0>) offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs.  Renee LeClaire McNamara is UNT’s Student Advocate and she can be reached through e-mail at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students’ office at 940-565-2648.  You are not alone.  We are here to help.

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

UNT provides mental health services 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 issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

1. [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center#programs)

(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center#programs>)

1800 Chestnut St. (Chestnut Hall)

940-565-2333

M-Th, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

2. [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) – Free to UNT Students

(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)

801 N. Texas Blvd., Suite 140 (Gateway Center)

940-565-2741

M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

3. [UNT CARE Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) – Free to UNT Students

(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)

Dean of Students, University Union

940-565-2648

[careteam@unt.edu](mailto:careteam@unt.edu)

4. [Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)

(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)

940-565-2333

5. [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling) – Free to UNT Students

(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>)

940-369-8773

If at any time you are feeling alone or in jeopardy of self-harm, reach out to any of the following:

* National Suicide Hotline 800-273-8255
* Denton County MHMR Crisis Line 800-762-0157
* Denton County Friends of the Family Crisis Line (family or intimate partner violence) 940-382-7273
* UNT Mental Health Emergency Contacts
  + During office hours, M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m: Call 940-565-2741
  + After hours: Call 940-565-2741
  + Crisis Line: Text CONNECT to 741741
  + [Live chat](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/): [(](file:///\\cas-shared.unt.ad.unt.edu\SHARED\JOUR\FACSTAFF\FACULTY%20&%20STAFF\SYLLABI%20&%20ATTACHMENTS\SYLLABI%20ATTACHMENTS\2020-2021\FALL%202020\FROM%20THORNE%20FOR%20CANVAS\()<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>)

## STATEMENTS OF STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this class students should be able to:

* Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information
* Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity
* Demonstrate an understanding of diversity in domestic society in relation to mass communications
* Think critically, creatively and independently
* Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve
* Critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness
* Conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they work.
* Apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communication professions in which they work.
* Apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work.