

JOUR 4270/5330 | Strategic Social Media

Summer 2023 May 22 - June 20
Instructor: Dr. Christina DeWalt
Office Hours: By appointment
Email: Christina.dewalt@unt.edu

Overview

This course explores social media from an organizational and strategic perspective. We will take a practical approach, exploring social media as a strategic professional tool. Given this, we will cover:

- Major platforms in terms of attributes, audiences, strategic usefulness, and pros/cons
- Content types and strategies
- How to use social media for business and organizations
- Social media management tools and platform analytics
- Ethical and cultural implications of the growth of social media
- Current issues & trends in social media

Course Objectives

After taking JOUR 4270/5330, each student will be able to meet these ACEJMC objectives:

- Understand and apply the basic technologies of the most common social media platforms and the strategic uses for those platforms in business and journalism.
- See the link between analytical, search and technical objectives combined with a social strategy when developing a strategic social media plan
- Analyze ethical and legal dilemmas in social media strategic communications.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of groups in a global society in relationship to communications.
- Work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness, and diversity.
- Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences, and purposes in which they work. This includes the adoption of specific personas per client segment.
- Apply current tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work and to understand a digital world.

Readings/Videos/Resources

Given that this class is online, you will be tasked with engaging in course materials including readings, PowerPoints, videos, and resources that will be made available on Canvas, LinkedIn Learning, and through UNT Library links.

For help with Canvas, please contact the CLEAR help desk (helpdesk@unt.edu). LinkedIn Learning is a free resource provided to all UNT students and can be [found here](#).

Social Media Accounts

During the course, you will be asked to create or use social media accounts on various platforms. You can create accounts solely for the purpose of the course if you prefer. More info will be posted on Canvas.

Textbook: Social Media Marketing: A Strategic Approach 3rd Edition by Debra Zahay, et. al. ISBN- 13: 978-0357516188, ISBN-10: 0357516184

Assignments/Course Structure

This course is split into 5 units that will allow students to work at their own pace while still engaging with

classmates. Each unit will include a weekly discussion board and a unit quiz (units 1 thru 4). More information will be posted on Canvas.

Discussion Boards (12 @ 50 points ea.)	600 points
Unit Quizzes (4 @ 50 points ea.)	200 points
Final Social Media Plan	200 points
Total	1,000 points

Semester grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

900 or more points	A
800 to 899 points	B
700 to 799 points	C
600 to 699 points	D
< 600 points	F

If a student demonstrates stellar performance or substantial improvement during the semester, I will consider raising a borderline grade to the next highest letter grade. However, DO NOT email me at the end of the semester requesting a higher grade.

I will make every effort to adhere to this point scale, but I reserve the right to change the number of assignments and point totals as needed.

A detailed, unit-by-unit schedule is available on Canvas.

Graduate Students

For graduate students enrolled in JOUR 5330, you will complete an additional assignment:

Social Media Marketing Lit Review - 200 points. More information will be posted in Canvas content section.

Class Policies

Professionalism: College provides an opportunity to develop skills that are needed in career settings.

Consequently, your work should be polished. Unless otherwise noted, all written assignments should be typed, double-spaced, and conform to standard rules of English grammar, spelling, and punctuation, in APA stylized notation. I also expect you to communicate respectfully toward your classmates and toward me. Harsh criticism, flippant remarks, disrespect, and similar behaviors will not be tolerated.

Participation

This class is designed to be interactive, with active student participation in discussion, reflection, and activities. Participation includes thoughtful contributions and engagement in online discussions.

Late assignments

I CANNOT RE-OPEN DISCUSSION BOARDS OR QUIZZES. All assignments are due on the date specified, unless notified otherwise, and must be submitted by the student who completed them. DO NOT EMAIL ME ASSIGNMENTS. Any assignments turned in after the deadline will be considered late, although I reserve the right to evaluate specific point deductions on a case-by-case basis.

Other specific policies are as follows:

- If late work is accepted, there will be an automatic 10 percent deduction for all late work, as well as a 10 percent deduction for every day late thereafter. Late work will not be accepted after 5 business days.
- Printer or computer problems, not understanding an assignment or due date, car trouble, being out of town, caring for a sick friend, oversleeping, alien abduction, or other drama does not justify late work.
- In case of an unforeseen emergency (this does not include items described in “letter b” above), please contact me as soon as possible and send a thorough email describing the situation.
- Emergency situations will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Quizzes cannot be re-opened or made up.
- The instructor’s records will be the final and only determination of grades.

Please see the following pages for MSOJ syllabi statements **regarding undergraduate and graduate** course requirements/enrollment/journalism major details.

MSOJ **Undergraduate** Syllabus Statements

JOURNALISM REQUIREMENTS & GUIDELINES

JOURNALISM COURSE REGISTRATION

- Registration will begin on the dates noted in the schedule of classes each semester. The system is a live, first come/first serve program.
- 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.

OFFICE HOURS

My virtual office is open Monday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; just email me, and I promise to respond within 24 - 48 hours, except on weekends. Skype/Google Hangout/video conference meetings are available by appointment.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance in an online course is still an important factor! You must “show up” to class each week in order to pass and perform well. Students who stop “showing up” to class, logging in, submitting work, etc. risk failing this class. Dropping the class is the student’s responsibility and is not an automatic process.

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.

Statement on Accreditation

The Mayborn, which is one of only 117 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.

As a Mayborn student, you are part of this important process. You might be asked to do a noncredit assignment in a class, you might be asked to participate in a survey or focus group, and you might be asked to visit with an outside team of professionals and educators who will be evaluating the school in the fall. Student participation in the process is essential.

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!

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

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.

This spring, the Mayborn Faculty and staff are writing our self-study, examining what we have accomplished and provided to our students, community and professions over the last six years. The process will culminate in an ACEJMC evaluation team visiting the school next fall. We hope you, our students, will engage with the team and learn more about what accreditation means.

Adobe Access

UNT now has a new 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: the Adobe general educational offer is \$19.99-\$29.99 per month, our offer is only \$55.55 *total*). <https://news.cvad.unt.edu/adobe>

The email address for students to ask questions or report problems is unatadobe@unt.edu.

JOURNALISM EQUIPMENT CHECK OUT

Anyone who plans to check out equipment during the semester must complete the checkout agreement form found here: <http://bit.ly/MaybornEQR>.

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

Please email the Mayborn Equipment Room at mayborn-equipment@unt.edu to schedule your gear pickup. Hours of operation:

9:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m. - Monday through Thursday
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. - Friday
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Saturday and Sunday.

All equipment must be picked up and returned at a scheduled time within these hours. We are here to help! Contact us via email or phone with any questions or concerns.

- La Daniel Maxwell, Journalism Equipment Room Supervisor ladaniel.maxwell@unt.edu
- Mayborn Equipment Room Staff – mayborn-equipment@unt.edu or 940-565-3580

Violations for late returns are as follows:

First late infraction – 1 week ban from checking out equipment.

Second late infraction – 3 weeks ban from checking out equipment.

Third late infraction – Semester long ban from any and all equipment checkout.

If you are going to be late returning equipment please email mayborn-equipment@unt.edu. Active communication brings leniency in many cases.

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:

OFFICE OF DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

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 Accommodation (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 Accommodation](http://www.unt.edu/oda) (<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. **Egregious offenses, even first-time offenses, will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.**

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. This class does not have an in-person final exam. Your final paper/essay is due via Canvas by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11, 2022.

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). If you do not regularly check EagleConnect or link it to your favorite e-mail account, please do so, 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 insure 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) 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) 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) or email spot@unt.edu. Spots survey dates:

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).

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 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
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): (<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>)

STATEMENTS OF STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Statement of Student Learning Outcomes, UNT Mayborn School of Journalism

Since 1969, the UNT Department of Journalism (Mayborn School of Journalism effective September 1, 2009) has been accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. This national accreditation also extends to the Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism, the only accredited professional master's program in Texas. About one-fourth of all journalism and mass communication programs in the United States are accredited by ACEJMC. National accreditation enhances your education here, because it certifies that the department and graduate institute adhere to many standards established by the council. Among these standards are student learning outcomes, covered by journalism courses in all sequences.

This course, JOUR 3250, will help to meet the student learning outcomes that have been checked by your professor, Sara Blankenship, M.A. Each graduate must:

- Understand and apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press for the country in which the institution that invites ACEJMC is located, as well as receive instruction in and understand the range of systems of freedom of expression around the world, including the right to dissent, to monitor and criticize power, and to assemble and petition for redress of grievances
- Demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications
- Demonstrate an understanding of diversity in domestic society in relation to mass communications
- Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society
- 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
- 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
- Apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work

MSOJ Graduate Syllabus Statements

JOURNALISM REQUIREMENTS & GUIDELINES

RE-TAKING FAILED JOURNALISM CLASSES

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Individual Faculty Member/Advisor

Associate Dean, Mayborn School of Journalism

Dean, Mayborn School of Journalism

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ACADEMIC ADVISING

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and facilities, and a competent faculty.

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9:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m. - Monday through Thursday

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. - Friday

12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Saturday and Sunday.

All equipment must be picked up and returned at a scheduled time within these

hours. We are here to help! Contact us via email or phone with any questions or concerns.

- La Daniel Maxwell, Journalism Equipment Room Supervisor ladaniel.maxwell@unt.edu
- Mayborn Equipment Room Staff – mayborn-equipment@unt.edu or 940-565-3580

Violations for late returns are as follows:

First late infraction – 1 week ban from checking out equipment.

Second late infraction – 3 weeks ban from checking out equipment.

Third late infraction – Semester long ban from any and all equipment checkout.

If you are going to be late returning equipment please email mayborn-equipment@unt.edu. Active communication brings leniency in many cases.

JOURNALISM EQUIPMENT CHECK OUT

Anyone who plans to check out equipment during the semester must complete the checkout agreement form found here: <http://bit.ly/MaybornEQR>.

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

Please email the Mayborn Equipment Room at mayborn-equipment@unt.edu to schedule your gear pickup. Hours of operation:

9:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m. - Monday through Thursday

9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. - Friday

12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Saturday and Sunday.

All equipment must be picked up and returned at a scheduled time within these hours. We are here to help! Contact us via email or phone with any questions or concerns.

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OFFICE OF DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

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 Accommodation (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 Accommodation](http://www.unt.edu/oda) (<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. **Egregious offenses, even first-time offenses, will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.**

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. **This class does not have an in-person final exam. Your final project is due via Canvas by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, May 7.**

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). If you do not regularly check EagleConnect or link it to your favorite e-mail account, please do so, 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.

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) 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) 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) or email spot@unt.edu. Spots survey dates:

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).

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, HARASSMENT, & 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 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](#) – Free to UNT

Students(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
Dean of Students, University
Union940-565-2648
careteam@unt.edu

4. [Psychiatric Services](#)

(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)
940-565-2333

5. [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): (<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>)

STATEMENTS OF STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Statement of Student Learning Outcomes, UNT Mayborn School of Journalism

Since 1969, the UNT Department of Journalism (Mayborn School of Journalism effective September 1, 2009) has been accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. This national accreditation also extends to the Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism, the only accredited professional master's program in Texas. About one-fourth of all journalism and mass communication programs in the United States are accredited by ACEJMC. National accreditation enhances your education here, because it certifies that the department and graduate institute adhere to many standards established by the council. Among these standards are student learning outcomes, covered by journalism courses in all sequences.

This course, JOUR 4270/5330, will help to meet the student learning outcomes that have been checked by your professor, Sara Blankenship, M.A.:

Each graduate must:

- Understand and apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press for the country in which the institution that invites ACEJMC is located, as well as receive instruction in and understand the range of systems of freedom of expression around the world, including the right to dissent, to monitor and criticize power, and to assemble and petition for redress of grievances
- Demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications
- Demonstrate an understanding of diversity in domestic society in relation to mass communications
- Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society
- 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
- 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
- Apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work