

ENGLISH 1320: COLLEGE WRITING II

Spring 2026 | University of North Texas

 FIRST YEAR WRITING University of North Texas	Instructor: Dr. Cieslikowski Class Times (1320.030): Tu & Th 12:30pm - 1:50pm; Lang 218 Email: craig.cieslikowski@unt.edu Office Hours: Tu/Th 11:15am - 12:15pm & 3:25pm - 4:25pm Office Location: Lang 408H
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In ENGL 1320, you will be introduced to invention strategies, reading strategies, and writing approaches that will help you thrive as writers in a university setting and beyond. With an emphasis on brainstorming, critical reading, analysis, and revision, you will practice genre conventions, gain rhetorical knowledge, and develop a framework for producing persuasive writing about issues that are important to you. One of the broadest goals of this course is to help you become comfortable with strategies for making your writing compelling to the audiences you want to reach. Defining, explaining, persuading, finding, and evaluating good sources—these are all ways to provide insight into topics that you want to share with other people. Overall, ENGL 1320 will prepare you for a wide range of writing expectations, including those that demand research, evidence, and careful argument.

In order to focus your research, this course will be themed around a topic chosen by your instructor. For the first few weeks, we will read in this common theme and you will use this to brainstorm your research paper topic(s). This will also encourage a classroom community of knowledge so that we can support and help each other with our varying topics and research processes.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

- Hone and develop reading, writing, and research skills through practice, repetition, and careful attention to style and strategy
- Develop a relevant research question
- Locate and analyze academic sources to use as evidence
- Synthesize sources into a larger analytical argument
- Draft and revise a research paper that is appropriate to academic audiences
- Collaborate with peers and provide useful feedback

CORE REQUIREMENTS

Catalog Description: 3 hours. Writing as inquiry. Develops habits of critical thinking, research-based inquiry, and argument through written engagement with relevant social and cultural issues.

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 1310, ENGL 1311, or equivalent.

CORE Category: Communication (English Composition and Rhetoric)

As ENGL 1320 meets one of your CORE Communication requirements. This course has four CORE skill objectives:

- Critical Thinking | The written activity explains insights that the writer has gained through careful consideration of the research and reading done in the course. The writer coherently represents the complexity and nuance of the ideas they are writing about.
- Clarity of Communication | The written activity shows that the writer understands the course material and has read widely enough to help audiences understand the significance of the idea they are writing about. The background context and the question the writer is addressing are both coherent and thorough enough.
- Organization and Structure | The written activity is clearly organized with a structure that allows audiences to understand its main point as well as the supporting examples and sources that contribute to the main point.
- Consideration of Other Perspectives | The written activity demonstrates careful listening to course ideas, course texts, and to consider other perspectives related to the topic the writer is addressing. The writer considers the cultural and social implications of their topic and argument.

COURSE BOOKS & MATERIALS

- *Steps to Writing Well with Additional Readings* (MindTap Course) Eleventh Edition, Jean Wyrick, Cengage, 2017, ISBN 9798214162119
- All other materials will be supplied by me or available at the library.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS & SKILLS

You'll need [a computer](#) with [internet access](#) and know the basic skills necessary to:

- Use [Outlook for UNT email](#)
- Use [Canvas](#)
- Use [Microsoft Word and PowerPoint](#)

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Assignment	Weight	Due Date
Major Assignment 1 (MA1) Research Paper Proposal • This unit focuses on reading sources for information and insight, as well as formulating a specific research question around an issue you want to write about and explore. You will draft a research proposal at the end of this unit.	5%	Saturday, 1/31
Major Assignment 2 (MA 2) Annotated Bibliography • This unit focuses on defining the context for the issue you have chosen and locating sources that offer a perspective on the issue. You will draft an annotated bibliography at the end of this unit.	20%	Saturday, 2/28
Major Assignment 3 (MA 3) First Draft of Research Paper • In this unit, you will plan and write a clear, focused, and well-researched essay that addresses the issue you have chosen to write about. You will submit both a rough draft and eventually a final draft of your research paper.	20%	Saturday, 4/4

Major Assignment 4 (MA 4) Revised Final Draft of Research Paper In this unit, you will learn about how to work a paper from a rough draft into a polished final draft. You will polish your draft from unit 3 for this unit.	15%	Saturday, 4/25
Major Assignment 5 (MA 5) Remixing your Research Project This final unit focuses on the activity of "remixing" writing through changes to the audience, purpose, and context. Remixing is an activity that helps writers develop new strategies, such as using multimodal writing or "everyday" language, to reach audiences beyond the form of the traditional academic essay. You will need to translate your research into an artifact or project that you will present to the class.	5%	Wednesday, 4/29
Quizzes Short quizzes over the assigned readings.	5%	Varies; Due Mondays
Discussion Weekly Activities due on Canvas Discussion Board	10%	Varies; Due Fridays
Participation	10%	Each class
Attendance	10%	Each class

GRADING

GRADE	DESCRIPTION
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 most of the assignment's requirements. The number of errors does not impede the work's meaning. 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 the assignment's requirements. The number of errors may impede the work's meaning. Shows some understanding of the concepts being taught. Coherent, significant, and perhaps even insightful in places but ultimately challenged in organization, articulation, and/or effectiveness.
D 60-69	Does not meet most of the assignment's requirements. The number of errors does impede the work's meaning. 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, underdeveloped, 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.

All major assignments must be turned in on Canvas and processed through Turnitin to be eligible to pass this course.

COURSE POLICIES (SEE CANVAS FOR ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES)

Feedback

My responsibility as your instructor is to challenge you, to help you understand the course material, and to help you grow and learn as a student. I will provide clear instructions for projects and assignments, answer your questions, and identify additional resources as necessary. I will also provide feedback on your work. You can expect me to have **feedback and grades returned to you within two weeks of the submission date** for each assignment. Note: with the rise in cheating and plagiarism, it occasionally takes longer to finish grading a set of papers.

Email

Communicate with me formally through my UNT email address: craig.cieslikowski@unt.edu

Send all emails through Canvas directly or from your UNT email. Instructors are not required to reply to external email addresses or to emails from parents or family members. Include the course and section number in the subject line, for example: 1320.### Use appropriate salutations and grammatical language: "Dear Dr. Cieslikowski," or "Dear Dr. C." Treat all emails as professional communication.

It is your responsibility to check your UNT email during your 'business' hours each day to ensure you do not miss any time-sensitive information.

Public Writing

All activities and submissions for this course, including but not limited to pre-writing, drafts, in-class assignments, and final projects, are public, i.e., any writing submitted for this course may be viewed by me or classmates. Do not submit any information that you are unwilling to share or do not want to be public.

Syllabus Change Policy

I have made every attempt to provide an accurate syllabus for this course. However, if presently unanticipated circumstances arise that necessitate an amendment to the syllabus, advance notice will be given in writing via Canvas of all changes.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance Policy ([UNT Policy 06.039](#))

Regular class attendance and participation are required. Excessive absences will affect your grade. Documented absences (e.g., religious holidays, university events) are automatically excused. Illness or undocumented absences are unexcused unless your instructor decides otherwise. You must email your instructor *before* class—unless it is an emergency—in order for them to consider excusing it.

FYW Program Attendance Guidelines (2x/week class):

- Per university policy, missing more than 20% of classes results in automatic failure, regardless of assignment grades.
- Attendance will be taken during every class period.
- With every absence, your roll call grade will drop.
- Two tardies equal one absence.
- At 7 unexcused absences, you cannot pass the course.
- Excused absences are at your instructor's discretion—stay in communication.

Excused Absences

Absences for the following reasons are considered excusable by the university based on [UNT policy 6.039](#), but you must obtain a note from the [Dean of Students](#) (or other appropriate university offices) to verify your absence(s): (1) religious holy day, including travel for that purpose; (2) participation in an official university function; (3) active military service, including travel for that purpose; (4) pregnancy and parenting under Title IX; and (6) when the University is officially closed. Please inform me of any planned absences with at least 10 days' notice to minimize any potential negative impact on your grades.

No other absences are eligible to be excused. Unless the absence is an illness or an extenuating circumstance that exceeds five consecutive days, you may request documentation from the Dean of Students' office for an excuse. Examples include, but are not limited to: (1) temporary disability or injury; (2) extended medical absence or hospitalization; (3) illness of a dependent family member; or (4) major illness or death of a loved one.

If you miss a class:

You are responsible for finding out what you missed. Before the next time our class meets, review the Canvas page and ask a classmate for notes on what you missed.

LATE WORK

Writing assignment submissions will automatically lose **15%** for each calendar day late. Late Quiz and Discussions will receive a **zero**. If any digital paper submission errors occur using Canvas, the student is expected to email the instructor with the assignment attached and a screenshot of the error screen **before** the due date to avoid late grade penalties.

Note that unreadable documents, e.g., inaccessible, unopenable, partially complete, incorrect files, etc., will be considered as a non-submission and thus late if the deadline has passed. **It is your responsibility** to plan on submitting with ample time to check the submission quality and viewability of your submission on Canvas. Note: you will not be granted an extension for any issues with your computer or with your Wi-Fi. You are expected to use the UNT computer labs if needed.

UNT POLICIES

Academic Integrity Standards

According to [UNT Policy 06.003](#), Academic Integrity standards are violated when students engage in academic dishonesty behaviors, including, but not limited to, cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty and my decision on academic sanctions will be reported to the [Office of Academic Integrity](#).

Plagiarism can include copying a passage from a source verbatim without citing it, but it can also include improper or misleading citations. Please note that all source material must be acknowledged, even if the material is paraphrased or sourced from generative AI technologies, which is prohibited in our class. Be careful always to acknowledge the work of other writers and take the time to work out the distinction between your original thoughts and arguments and those of others.

Additionally, the use of any generative AI writing tools is prohibited in this class. Assignments for the course have been designed to help you develop as a thinker, reader, and writer without using these technologies. You will generate ideas, read, revise, and write independently or when appropriate in consultation with peers, UNT Writing Center tutors, and me. Any use of generative AI in your work for this class violates our syllabus and thus will be treated as an instance of cheating.

Ignorance of the generative AI tools in your chosen digital writing technologies, whatever they may be, is not sufficient to excuse the violation. If you are unsure about a digital writing tool (even automatically integrated ones), don't use it for this class.

Acceptable Student Behavior

According to [UNT policy 07.012](#), 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 notified verbally or in writing and may be directed to leave the classroom. Additionally, the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct.

For additional information, refer to the [Dean of Students](#) website.

ADA Accommodations

According to UNT policy 16.001, UNT will make reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA). Then, the ODA will provide them with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty members detailing the students' accommodation needs. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours. Students may request reasonable accommodation at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 and meet with all faculty members prior to accommodation implementation every semester.

For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert 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.

For additional information, refer to the Eagle Alert website.

UNT RESOURCES

Technical Assistance:

[Information Technology Help Desk | University of North Texas](#)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu – Phone: 940-565-2324 – In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Writing Assistance:

[Writing Center | University of North Texas](#) – Email: WritingCenter@unt.edu Phone: 940-565-2563
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 150 – schedule appointment: <https://unt.mywconline.com/>

UNT Student Counseling: 311 Chestnut Hall; counselingandtestingservices@unt.edu

phone: 940-565-2741 <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/student-counseling/resources/making-an-initial-appointment.html>

English 1320 Weekly Schedule | Spring 2026

*This schedule is subject to change at your instructor's discretion. Always check the "announcements" in Canvas for any changes.

WEEK	READINGS	ACTIVITIES	ASSIGNMENTS
UNIT 1			
Week 1 Jan 12-16	- Course Syllabus "Is the Fear of AI in Academia Justified?" by Katie Spillane - Additional Reading TBA	- Course Introduction and Syllabus Overview - Course Theme Introduction - Establish a Classroom Community	Multimedia Introduction Due Fri.
Week 2 Jan 19-23	- Ch. 1 Prewriting - Justin Vinh "The Screen the Brain and Human Nature" "What Technology Should be Un-Invented?" by Robinson Meyer	- Understanding MA 1 - Topic brainstorming using SWW Ch. 19-1 "Focusing Your Topic" - In-class brainstorming session: pump primer techniques - Research Demonstration	- Reading Quiz Due Mon. - Brainstorming Activity Due Fri. on Canvas Discussion Board - Check Your Understanding reading quiz Due Fri. by via MindTap
Week 3 Jan 26-30	"Hip or Hype? Virtual Influencers ..." by Madison Patrick Kulp	- Time in-class for proposal drafting - Look at the sample proposal	- Reading Quiz Due Mon. MA 1 Research Paper Proposal Due Saturday 1/31
UNIT 2			
Week 4 Feb 2-6	"Make Media Great Again" by Mark Tungate - Ch. 19 Conducting Research and Using Sources	- Understanding MA 2 - Finding reliable sources and media literacy - Library tutorial day: how to use UNT's library database to find sources - Begin finding reliable sources	- Reading Quiz Due Mon. - Media Literacy Activity Due Fri. on Canvas Discussion Board - Check Your Understanding reading quiz Due Fri. via MindTap
Week 5 Feb 9-13	"Flat Earth, Illuminati, and Fake Moon Landing..." by Kate Sheridan - Ch. 15 Argumentation	- Counterargument and refutation - See sample student papers - Find all sources and bring them to class next week	- Reading Quiz Due Mon. - The Conversation and Contested Issue Activity Due Fri. on Canvas Discussion Board - Check Your Understanding reading quiz Due Fri. via MindTap
Week 6 Feb 16-20	Ch. 8 The Reading-Writing Connection	- Logical fallacies - How to read and annotate articles - Finish reading all sources, work on annotations	- Annotating and Writing Summaries Activity Due Fri. on Canvas Discussion Board - Check Your Understanding reading quiz Due Fri. via MindTap
Week 7 Feb 23- 27	MLA Formatting: A FYW Style Guide	- Revisiting your research question with sources - Formatting your bibliography - Finalizing annotations	MA 2 Annotated Bibliography Due Saturday 2/28

UNIT 3			
Week 8 Mar 2-7	Ch. 2 The Thesis Statement	- Discuss drafting as a process using SWW Ch. 5 - Discuss body paragraphs - Draft a working thesis statement using SWW Ch. 2 and "Using the Essay Map" - In-class debate activity	- Working Thesis Statement Activity Due Fri. on Canvas Discussion Board - Check Your Understanding reading quiz Due Fri. via MindTap
Week 9 Mar 9-13		SPRING BREAK- NO CLASSES	
Week 10 Mar 16-20	Ch. 3 The Body Paragraphs	- Discuss introductions and conclusions - Look at examples of intros and conclusions - Draft an outline - Discuss incorporating evidence	- Outline Activity Due Fri. on Canvas Discussion Board - Check Your Understanding reading quiz Due Fr. via MindTap
Week 11 Mar 23-27	Ch. 4: Beginnings and Endings	- Discuss lead-ins, paragraph coherence, and sequencing - In class time for writing	- TBD Activity Due Fri. on Canvas Discussion Board - Check Your Understanding reading quiz Due Fri. via MindTap
Week 12 Mar 30 - Apr 3		- See sample papers - In-class writing time - Last day to ask questions about the draft	MA 3 Research Paper First Draft Due Saturday 4/4
UNIT 4			
Week 13 Apr 6-10	Ch. 5 Drafting and Revising: Creative Thinking, Critical Thinking	- Why revision matters - Work through the revision process - Peer Review activities	- Submit Peer Reviews (details on Canvas) - Check Your Understanding reading quiz due Fri. via MindTap
Week 14 Apr 13-17	Read your peer's writing to give feedback (in class and on Canvas)	Work through the revision process	Revision Activity Due Fri. on Canvas Discussion Board
Week 15 Apr 20-24		- Finalize research paper - Discuss expectations for final "remixing" project	MA 4 Revised Research Paper Due Saturday 4/25
Week 16 Apr 27- May 1		In-class presentations of the remixed final project	MA 5 Final Remixing Research Projects Due Wednesday 4/29
FINALS May 4-8			

Additional resources:

<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students/index.html>

<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/student-counseling/index.html>

<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>

<https://learningcenter.unt.edu/>

<https://academictechnologies.unt.edu/services/computer-labs>

<https://library.unt.edu/>