ENGL 1320 | Fall 2025

Instructor | Professor Van Pay

Office | GAB 515

Office Hours | Mondays 10:30am-1:30pm

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Note about emails: I do not check emails after 5pm M-F or at all on weekends, so give yourself plenty of time to get help!

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 process.

Course Learning Objectives:
• 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

UNIVERSITY POLICIES FOR STUDENTS:

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

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences:

According to UNT Policy 06.003, [**Student Academic Integrity**](https://vpaa.unt.edu/fs/resources/academic/integrity), academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to:

* Cheating--submitting work that is not your own (This includes using ChatGPT, Grammarly, and Microsoft Copilot)
* **Any use of AI is strictly prohibited in this course. (This includes ChatGPT, Grammarly, and Microsoft Copilot)**
* Fabrication--pretending you are writing about a real source when you really made it up
* Facilitating academic dishonesty--helping someone else cheat
* Forgery--pretending your work is someone else's or someone else’s work is yours
* Plagiarism--using someone else's published work without citing it correctly
* Sabotage--setting someone else up to fail

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

[**https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003%20St**](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003%20St)

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:

The UNT Policy Manual defines plagiarism as: “(a) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement and (b) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.” (18.1.11). Students in all Freshman Writing courses need to be aware of the strict policies against plagiarism and academic honesty enforced by UNT and by instructors in the Department of English. **All writing in FYW courses must be original,** and all uses of other writer’s material (i.e., for the purposes of research based argumentation) must be acknowledged and clearly cited in any writing submitted for a grade. **If your instructor suspects plagiarism, you will automatically receive a zero on the paper or assignment and will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity. Your instructor may also require you to meet with them to discuss the suspected plagiarism.**

The consequences for plagiarism at UNT are severe, and may include failure for the course, loss of scholarships, and in some cases dismissal from the university. Please talk with your instructor if you are unsure about whether or not something you are doing in your writing might be identified as plagiarism.

* For more information, please see: <https://vpaa.unt.edu/ss/integrity>

Acceptable Student Behavior:

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT.

Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom, and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the [**Code of Student Conduct**](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct). The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

The [**Dean of Students Office**](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) enforces the [**Code of Student Conduct**](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012). The Code explains:

* What conduct is prohibited
* The process the DOS uses to review reports of alleged misconduct by students
* The sanctions that can be assigned
* When students may have violated the Code, they meet with a representative from the Dean of Students Office to discuss the alleged misconduct in an educational process.

Electronic Devices:

* **No phone or headphone use during class! Phones should be out of sight for the duration of class. While computer use is permitted, you are expected to be accessing course materials.** We can think of this policy as important for participation in the course and as a general exercise in focusing our attention and showing respect for the classroom space. If I see you using your phone during class, I can mark you as absent. If you have an issue that requires you to have your phone out during class, please inform me beforehand.

ADA Accommodation:

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

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

Survivor Advocacy:

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination
on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT’s Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim’s compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus.

The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565-2759

Undocumented Students:

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

Emergency Notification & Procedures:

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

First Year Writing (FYW) Policies:

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

Evaluation and Grading:

Attendance (10%)

Reading Quizzes and Discussions (10%)

MA1: Choosing a Topic (10%)

MA 2: Finding Sources (20%)

MA 3: Drafting and Revising the Research Essay (20%)

MA 4: Final Draft (20%)

MA 5: Remixing Your Research Project (10%)

Rubrics and Scoring Systems:

Although specific rubrics will be provided for each larger writing project, all writing activities in this course generally must meet the following requirements and demonstrate the following desired outcomes.

* 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 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 considers other perspectives related to the topic that the writer is addressing. The writer considers the cultural and social implications of their topic and argument.

Program Values:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Communication Expectations:

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

* Communicate with me formally through my UNT email address: yourname@unt.edu.
* Include the course and section number in the subject line: 1320.XXX
* Use appropriate salutations and grammatical language: "Dear XX"
* Treat all emails as professional communication.
* Respect the personal identities and privacy of yourself, me, and others.
* Respect identities based on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and/or culture.
* Think carefully about what you reveal and do not reveal, particularly if this information involves your health and/or classroom performance. If your emails contain any information that causes me to be concerned for your safety or the safety of others, I am required to report it.
* Refrain from making personal attacks or using language that discriminates based on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and/or culture.

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

Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback:

My responsibility as your instructor is to:

* Challenge you.
* Help you understand the course material.
* Help you grow and learn as a student.
* To achieve these goals, I will:
* Provide clear instructions for projects and assignments.
* Answer your questions.
* Identify additional resources as necessary.
* Provide substantive feedback on your written work within two weeks of the submission date for each assignment.

Participation and Civility:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Using Canvas:

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

* Submit all assignments through Canvas, including quizzes, discussions, weekly writings, and major assignments.
* Check Announcements at least once a day. I will communicate important information about our course as an announcement.
* All students have access to Canvas through their UNT accounts. For more information on using Canvas, see [**https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701**](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701).

Direct questions regarding your use of the Canvas learning management system to the student help desk at:

* Email: **helpdesk@unt.edu**
* Phone: 940-565-2324.

Make plans to have a backup way to access the technology each week: another computer, the local library, or one of UNT's open access computer labs. Not having access to the course will not excuse you from the workload each week.

Formatting Your Assignments:

All written work needs to be typed and submitted online to Canvas. For all essays, use **MLA** format: use the provided example on Canvas, including:

* Include your name and the page number on the top right of each page (e.g. Lastname 1)
* Include a date and the course number, ENGL 1320, on the top left of each page.
* Use Times New Roman 12 point, with one-inch (1”) margins, and double-spacing.
* I will only accept Word or PDF documents, so be sure to save your papers accordingly. If you need to use Google Docs, I must have access as soon as you submit. Do not require me to use any sort of password—if I can’t open your assignment on Canvas, you will receive a zero.

Late or Missed Assignments:

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

* All assignments are due by the date specified in Canvas.
* If you need extra time on an assignment, you must request your extension **at least 48 hours before the assignment is due.**
* You cannot pass the course if you have not received a grade for all major assignments.
* Meet with me as soon as possible if you miss a deadline for an assignment.

Public Writing:

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

Syllabus Change Policy:

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

Technical Requirements & Skills:

To complete much of the work, you must have the correct tools:

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

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy:

Students in this course should be able to

* Use Canvas
* Use email with attachments

Chosen Names:

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

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

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

Pronouns:

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

You can [**add your pronouns to your Canvas account**](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-18406-42121184808) so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

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

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

CORE Requirements Fulfillment:

ENGL 1320 meets one of your CORE Communication requirements. The state defines "communication" as:

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

This course has four objectives:

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

THe Writing ASSIGNMENTS:

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

Major Assignment 1 – Choosing a topic

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.

**Grade distribution**

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Attendance (10%)

Reading Quizzes and Discussions (10%)

MA1: Choosing a Topic (10%)

MA 2: Finding Sources (20%)

MA 3: Drafting and Revising the Research Essay (20%)

MA 4: Final Draft (20%)

MA 5: Remixing Your Research Project (10%)

Major ASSIGNMENT 2 – Finding Sources

This unit focuses on defining the context for the issue you have chosen and locating sources that offer perspective on the issue. You will draft an annotated bibliography at the end of this unit.

MAJOR ASSIGNMENT 3 & 4–Writing and revising the Research Essay

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 learn about how to work a paper from a rough draft into a polished final draft. You will submit both a rough draft and final draft of your research paper for this unit.

MAJOR ASSIGNMENT 5--Final Remixing Project PRESENTATION

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.

Attendance:

\*Please see the full atendance policy in Canvas

 It is the UNT FYW policy that no student missing more
than 20% of classroom instruction in a first-
year writing course should be able to pass the
course. The following number of classes equals 20%:

* A class that meets 1 day a week | 3 classes
* A class that meets 2 days a week | 7 classes
* A class that meets 3 days a week | 10 classes

You will be given an attendance report two times over the course of the semester:

* 6 weeks
* 12 weeks

At this time, your instructor will notify you of your attendance progress and your ability to pass the course based on your attendance.

In addition to not attending class altogether, the following actions may result in a student being counted as officially absent:

* Coming to class unprepared (didn’t read, won’t participate in discussions)
* Excessive cell phone use or the use of headphones during class
* Distracting or disruptive behavior or outbursts

\*LATENESS TO CLASS

Most students, at some point or another, meet with unforeseen circumstances that make them late for class. However, repeated late arrivals are disruptive. **You will lose participation points if lateness seems to be a persistent problem, and two tardies will equal one absence.** Nevertheless, you are always better off showing up to class, even if you are extremely late. It is much easier to update you on what you missed directly after class. (Note: This policy does not apply to students with ODA accommodations for lateness.)

\*ILLNESS AND ATTENDANCE

It is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our classroom community. If you are experiencing any symptoms of serious illness, please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center or your health care provider PRIOR to attending class. If you choose to do so, you may email your
professor to inform them of your absence due to illness or other medical issues. Your instructor can decide if absences due to illness will be excused and exceptions to the attendance policy instituted. Official documentation may be requested via the Dean of Students for extended periods of absence due to illness deanofstudents@unt.edu

The Writing Center (<https://writingcenter.unt.edu/index.html>)

Throughout the semester, students will be required to attend TWO sessions with The Writing Center. These can be scheduled at your convenience as long as they are done before your final draft of your essay (MA 4) is due. You will see a drop box in Canvas for their forms (they will give you a form to send me). Each of these visits will be given as 10 points on your lowest MA. If you do not complete these sessions, you will lose TWO attendance days at the end (this will not affect your 10 allowed absences, but it will affect the attendance percentage of your grade).