ENGL 2100 | Intro to Creative Writing | Fall 2025

Name | Professor Cheyenne LaRoque

OFFICE | GAB 515

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Pronouns | she/her

Office Hours | M/W 9:30-10:30am

***“Start writing, no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on.” ― Louis L'Amour***

**Course Description**

*ENGL 2100: Introduction to Creative Writing* will help you get accustomed to reading, writing, and talking about creative works with the mindset of a writer and will span the genres of poetry, nonfiction, and fiction. Some of you may have come into this class having already learned L’Amour’s lesson, some maybe not, but in either case we will be getting the water flowing if it is not already. We will explore various craft elements from each genre, learning first how they function before we attempt to implement them in our own works. We will be reading each other’s work with an eye for improvement, and we will engage in being read with an open mind. We will learn how to critically analyze the work of others and of ourselves and will strive to turn the faucet on.

**Course Objectives**

* Develop an understanding of and appreciation for the genres of poetry, nonfiction, and fiction as both a reader and a writer
* Acquire an accessible toolbox of conventions, forms, and techniques for each genre
* Read, analyze, and discuss creative works of famous authors and classmates with a critical eye
* Foster a supportive and respectful community of writers looking to improve their craft and spark inspiration in each other and themselves
* Craft creative works which will be read and discussed by your peers and instructor and later revised for a final portfolio

**Required Texts**

* *The Making of a Poem: A Norton Anthology of Poetic Forms* edited by Eavan Boland and Mark Strand (ISBN-10 0393321789)
* *Touchstone Anthology of Contemporary Creative Nonfiction* edited by Lex Williford and Michael Martone (ISBN-10 1416531742)
* *100 Years of the Best American Short Stories* edited by Lorrie Moore and Heidi Pitlor (ISBN-10 0547485859)
* Occasional supplemental PDFs and files printed by instructor and/or uploaded to Canvas when necessary

**Required Materials**

* All required texts
* Notebook and pen/pencil or other writing implement brought to every class
* A willingness to read, to learn, to write, and to grow (improvement first requires failure…and oftentimes a lot more of it than we’d like)

## **Evaluation and Grading**

* **Poems (four total will be submitted) – 15%**
* **Short Story (approximately 1000-1200 words) – 15%**
* **Essay (approximately 1000-1200 words) – 15%**
* Workshop (in-class participation as well as written feedback letters) – **15%**
* Participation and Experiments (short, often prompted weekly writing exercises meant to foster creativity and serve as inspiration for portfolio pieces) – **10%**
* Literary Magazine or Literary Event Review (500 words) – **10%**
* Final Portfolio (composed of revised major writings from the semester) – **20%**

## **Grade Breakdown**

**A = 100%-90%**

**B = 89%-80%**

**C = 79%-70%**

**D = 69%-60%**

**F = 59%-0%**

**Etiquette and Disruptions**

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

* Wearing headphones
* Using your phone or laptop for actions unrelated to class
* Eating a full meal—small snacks are okay
* Holding side conversations
* Speaking to fellow students or your instructor disrespectfully

# Required Attendance and Your Final Grade

You are required to attend class unless you are:  
• Sick — contagious or too unwell to participate   
• Attending a university approved activity — sporting event, debate team, etc.  
• Have an emergency — car accident, sick child or family member, etc.

According to UNT Policy 06.039, you are expected to attend class, and your grade will be affected if you do not attend. The UNT policy states:

The University of North Texas recognizes that student success is promoted by regular attendance and participation in class.  It is the responsibility of the faculty member to notify students in writing of any special attendance requirements for the class. This policy applies to all modes of course delivery.

According to the policy, it is your duty as a student to maintain “regular and punctual attendance,” to “participate in all courses.” It is the instructor's responsibility to “record student class attendance,” and “clearly state in their syllabus the requirements for class absence and/or participation and the impact of the absences/participation on course grades. In compliance with this policy, I will enforce this policy.

### **Number of Allowed Absences**

Any student who misses more than 20% of the total number of classes for a semester will not pass the course even if they have earned passing grades on their assignments. The following number of classes equals 20%:

* 1 day a week | 3 classes
* 2 day a week | 6 classes
* 3 day a week | 9 classes

### **Excused Absences**

In compliance with UNT policy, instructors will excuse the following types of absences:

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

If a student is not sure if their absence may be excused, they should speak to their instructor.

### **Attendance Process**

* Attendance will be recorded every class via a sign-in sheet and via Canvas.

NOTE |Two tardies equal one absence.

* I will post your percentage of attendance as it is recorded in Canvas. For example, if a student in a two-day-a-week class misses two classes in a six-week period, your percentage will be 80%, which is passing.

NOTE | You must make up all work missed during your absences as assignments will not be excused.

***In any and all attendance related issues, communication is key. If you communicate with me, I am far more willing and likely to work with you to the best of my ability.***

# 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: cheyenne.laroque@ unt.edu
* Include the course and section number in the subject line: ENGL 2100
* Use appropriate salutations and grammatical language: "Dear Professor LaRoque,”
* Treat all emails as professional communication.
* Respect the personal identities and privacy of yourself, of me, and others.
* Respect identities based on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and/or culture.
* Think carefully about what you reveal and do not reveal, particularly if this information involves your health and/or classroom performance. If your emails contain any information that causes me to be concerned for your safety, or the safety of others, I will report it.
* Refrain from making personal attacks or using language that discriminates based on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and/or culture.

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

**Formatting Your Assignments**

All written work needs to be typed and submitted online to Canvas.  For all assignments (excluding discussion posts),

* Include your last name and the page number on the top right of each page.
* Include your full name, the course number (ENGL 2100), and the date on which the assignment was turned in on the top left of first page.
* Use Calibri, Times New Roman, or Garamond 12 point, with one inch (1”) margins, and double-spacing.

All formatting is required **UNLESS** you have a good reason (such as a specific artistic intent) behind a given change. These requirements are not here to stifle creative expression; they’re here to help your professor maintain her sanity and eyesight.

**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 24 hours before the assignment is due.
* I will not accept late work. This course is on a tight schedule. If you know your assignment is going to be late, ask for an extension.
* Meet or communicate with me as soon as possible if something extenuating comes up. I understand that sometimes life happens.

# AI Usage in ENGL 2100

# This course is designed for students to be crafting their own works of poetry, nonfiction, and fiction. As such, AI generated writing and the use of AI generative writing tools (such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, or others) is NOT ALLOWED and will be treated as academic integrity violation that will be addressed in accordance with UNT’s Academic Integrity policies.

# Public Writing

All your submitted writing for this course is public writing. The writing that you submit in this course may be viewed by me and possibly your classmates as well. Please do not submit any information about yourself that you do not want to be public.

**Syllabus Change Policy**

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

# Technical Requirements & Skills

Because much of the work is to be turned in on Canvas and completed digitally, 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) (<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

**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/ updates regarding our course as announcements.

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

* See  <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](mailto: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.

**University Policies**

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

**Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences**

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

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

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

**Acceptable Student Behavior**

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

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

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

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

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

**ADA Accommodation**

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

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

**Sexual Assault Prevention**

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance.

The Survivor Advocates can be reached at:

* [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu)
* Dean of Students Office: 940-565-2648

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

**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.

# 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)

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| DATE | READ (ahead of class) | WRITE | DO (in class) |
| August 19th  FIRST DAY | N/A | N/A | Go over Syllabus  Introductions and Expectations |
| August 21st  BEGINNING OF POETRY UNIT | Selected sections and poems from *The Making of a Poem* as listed on Canvas | **Poem 1** due on August 22nd by 11:59pm (submit to Canvas) | Discuss Selected Readings  Understand forms:   * Villanelle * Sestina |
| August 26th | Selected sections and poems from *The Making of a Poem* as listed on Canvas | N/A | Discuss Selected Readings  Understand forms:   * Pantoum * Ballad |
| August 28th | Selected sections and poems from *The Making of a Poem* as listed on Canvas | **Poem 2** due on August 29th by 11:59pm (submit to Canvas) | Discuss Selected Readings  Understand forms:   * Sonnet(s) * Heroic Couplet |
| September 2nd | Selected sections and poems from *The Making of a Poem* as listed on Canvas | N/A | Discuss Selected Readings  Understand forms:   * Blank Verse * Stanza |
| September 4th | Selected sections and poems from *The Making of a Poem* as listed on Canvas | **Poem 3** due on September 5th by 11:59pm (submit to Canvas) | Discuss Selected Readings    Understand forms:   * Elegy * Pastoral |
| September 9th | Selected sections and poems from *The Making of a Poem* as listed on Canvas | N/A | Discuss Selected Readings  Understand forms:   * Ode * Open Form   Determine Workshop Order via Sign-up Sheet |
| September 11th | Students 1-8 Poems | Letters of Critique (via Discussion Board) for Students 1-8 due **BEFORE CLASS**  **Poem 4** due on September 12th by 11:59pm | Workshop Students 1-8 |
| September 16th | Students 9-16 Poems | Letters of Critique (via Discussion Board) for Students 9-16 due **BEFORE CLASS** | Workshop Students 9-16 |
| September 18th | Students 17-23 Poems | Letters of Critique (via Discussion Board) for Students 17-23 due **BEFORE CLASS** | Workshop Students 17-23 |
| September 23rd | Selected essays from *Touchstone* as listed on Canvas | N/A | Begin Nonfiction Unit  Discuss Selected Readings |
| September 25th | Selected essays from *Touchstone* as listed on Canvas | **Nonfiction Experiment 1** due September 26th by 11:59pm | Discuss Selected Readings  Understand Speculated and Imagined Nonfiction |
| September 30th | Selected essays from *Touchstone* | N/A | Discuss Selected Readings  How to Put the Reader in Your Shoes |
| October 2nd | Selected essays from *Touchstone* | **Nonfiction Experiment 2** due October 3rd by 11:59pm | Discuss Selected Readings  Writing from a Place of Retrospect |
| October 7th | Selected essays from *Touchstone* | N/A | Discuss Selected Readings  Playing With Form |
| October 9th | Selected essays from *Touchstone* | **Nonfiction Experiment 3** due October 10th by 11:59pm | Discuss Selected Readings  Incorporating Intertextuality and Footnotes |
| October 14th | Selected essays from *Touchstone* | N/A | Discuss Selected Readings  Putting It All Together |
| October 16th | N/A | **Essay Draft** due October 17th by 11:59pm | Workday for Essay Drafts  Determine Workshop Groups and Order |
| October 21st | Students 1-3’s essays | Letters of Critique for Students 1-3 | Workshop Students 1-3 |
| October 23rd | Students 4-6’s essays | Letters of Critique for Students 4-6 | Workshop Students 4-6 |
| October 28th | “A Small Good Thing” and “The Bath” by Raymond Carver | N/A | Begin Fiction Unit  Concision and Adding Detail |
| October 30th | Selected stories from *100 Years* | **Fiction Experiment 1** due October 31st by 11:59pm | Discuss Selected Reading  Concision and Adding Details Continued |
| November 4th | Selected stories from *100 Years* | N/A | Discuss Selected Readings  Character Driven vs. Plot Driven Narrative |
| November 6th | Selected stories from *100 Years* | **Fiction Experiment 2** due November 7th by 11:59pm | Discuss Selected Readings  Point of View |
| November 11th | Selected stories from *100 Years* | N/A | Discuss Selected Readings  Conversational Tone |
| November 13th | Selected stories from *100 Years* | **Fiction Experiment 3** due November 14th by 11:59pm | Discuss Selected Readings  Writing as Children |
| November 18th | Selected stories from *100 Years* | N/A | Discuss Selected Readings  Playing With Form and Conventions |
| November 20th | N/A | **Short Story Draft** due on November 21st by 11:59pm (Submit to Canvas) | Workday for Short Story Draft  Determine Workshop Groups and Order |
| Fall Break November 23rd – 30th | N/A | **Literary Citizen Assignment** due on November 30th | N/A |
| December 2nd | Students 1-3’s stories | Letters of Critique for Students 1-3 | Workshop Students 1-3 |
| December 4th | Students 4-6’s stories | Letters of Critique for Students 4-6 | Workshop Students 4-6 |
| Finals Week  December  6th – 11th | N/A | **Final Portfolio due December 11th by 11am via Canvas** | N/A |

\*Schedule is subject to change