

JOUR 4720.001, Multimedia Storytelling for News, Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT

Name: Thorne Anderson

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Weekly Class Meetings: Mondays, 11:10pm - 2:00 pm, Sycamore 222

Office Hours: Mondays 2-3pm.

You may reserve appointment times by email.

Virtual Office for individual appointments: Check email and save the link I send you there.

Communication Expectations: The best way to reach me is via the UNT email address listed above. I'll get back to you within one business day. Please give your email clear, informative subject lines.

The CLEAR office has a webpage for students that provides [Online Communication Tips](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (<https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips>).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course prepares students for high-level, long-form visual storytelling using still and video photography. The course employs advanced photojournalism and video documentary techniques, gathering sound, shooting and editing video and producing narrative multimedia stories. The course also addresses advanced journalism practices including versatility in reporting, ethical decision-making, accuracy, writing proficiency, and meeting deadlines.

The purpose of this course is to push the boundaries of non-fiction storytelling through multiple forms of traditional and emerging media. We seek to blend the best aesthetic and narrative techniques of the past and the future for high quality storytelling. Experimentation will be encouraged in this class, but our end goal is to produce compelling, well-sourced, true stories in line with traditional journalistic informational ambitions as well as ethical constraints. Our storytelling methods are empowered through the exploration and application of narrative technique.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This course will be taught in-person on the UNT-Denton campus. The class will meet weekly at the assigned time. Students will be assigned a variety of interactive activities including asynchronous online discussions and critiques of each others' work.

COURSE PREREQUISITES OR OTHER RESTRICTIONS

Students must have completed JOUR 3700 and either JOUR 3310 or JOUR 3323. Students must have Journalism Major or Minor status. Students who don't meet prerequisites must have consent from the Mayborn School of Journalism.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify the critical elements of nonfiction, narrative storytelling.
- 2) Produce pictorial videography which meets high aesthetic standards.
- 3) Conduct interviews for narrative storytelling with high-quality audio recording
- 4) Employ pictorial videography, interview audio, and narrative storytelling techniques in a 3-5 minute video documentary.

You will be empowered to:

- Create bold pictorial video which meets high aesthetic standards.
- Identify and make use of movement as a compositional element.
- Assemble audio/visual sequences with sensible connections to establish a sense of time, space, place, movement, transition, activity, process, or development of character or plot.
- Engage in immersive reporting.
- Hone interview skills targeted for narrative storytelling.
- Develop and eye and an ear for capturing candid scenes which meaningfully advance a story through plot or character development.
- Think critically about the function of multimedia communication.
- Express criticism constructively and accept constructive criticism.
- Practice resiliency and overcome technical and reporting obstacles

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Foundational Skills

This course will proceed through a series of "foundational skills" assignments in which students will experiment with creating the building blocks of multimedia storytelling. The foundational skills assignments include exercises in rich pictorial videography, construction of sequences and scenes, video portraiture, and capturing candid action and dialogue.

Capstone Project

For the capstone project students will produce one 3-5 minute nonfiction, narrative video which adheres to the traditional standards of ethical practice in journalism. The capstone project will include several in-progress submissions and one final submission. Each of these assignments are graded.

NOTE: WHAT KINDS OF TOPICS MAKE GOOD SEMESTER LONG PROJECTS?

Here are several factors to take into consideration:

Access: It will take time and many return visits to the site of of your project to get the material you need. Make sure you're working with a subject that will still be around and active throughout the semester, will return your phone calls, and can tolerate your repeated visits.

Compelling subject matter: Is the subject newsworthy or noteworthy? Does it touch an issue of contemporary concern? Is there a strong "human interest" component? I want you to win awards and find new jobs and opportunities, and for that you have to stretch yourself. Find a subject that will be of a wider interest than just among your circle of friends or family.

A subject you are personally interested in: You don't want to get stuck with something you really hate. There will be plenty of those kinds of obligations to come in life. Why take one on now when you have the option to commit to something you find interesting. Push yourself. The more you learn about something new, the more you will love the experience.

Subjects which are active and are changing: This class is about narrative, so a subject which is in motion can be a real advantage. Timing is important. A story about a pregnant woman is not nearly as interesting as a story about a pregnant woman who gives birth (it would be a shame if that were to happen AFTER the semester finishes).

Multimedia potential (and by this I mean, primarily, visual potential): Is there something tangible for you to photograph and will you have access to it?

MULTIMEDIA PROJECT TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Before you Shoot

Charge all your batteries. Synchronize all camera and audio recorder clocks.

Video Settings

Shoot video at least 1080p (16:9. 1920h x1080v) resolution with 48 kHz, 24-bit Audio

Choose a frame rate (30fps strongly suggested) and stick with it for all shooting (except slow-mo).

Camera Color Space: Rec 709 is the most common video color, but sRGB is a good substitute,

Adobe RGB is also fine. Use LOG color only if you are committed to extra editing.

Set shutter speed between 1/50 and 1/60 whenever possible (Rule of thumb: SS is 2x your fps)

Use neutral density filters when necessary to reduce light for more aperture flexibility

Preset manual focus is most reliable so long as your focal distance doesn't change.

"Quick Focus" (as opposed to "continuous") is often preferred so your focus remains fixed

Autofocus modes can be good, but have to be learned. You have to practice with them.

Turn auto exposure mode OFF in almost all circumstances

Video Shooting Steps:

- 1) STABILIZE: Use a tripod – or at least a monopod.
- 2) WHITE BALANCE: AWB is useful, but AWB is occasionally fooled.
- 3) EXPOSE: Refer to histogram or waveform. Adjust aperture to match 1/50 - 1/60 shutter speeds.
- 4) FOCUS: Magnify focus if necessary to make sure you are nailing it. Avoid continuous focus.
- 5) COMPOSE: Compose creatively with limited/controlled motion in the frame.
- 6) RECORD: Record at least 10 seconds per keeper shot to make sure it is useful for editing.
- 7) SHOOT FOR SEQUENCES: wide, medium & tight - follow 180° rule & avoid crossing line of action

<https://indiefilmhustle.com/180-degree-rule/>

Audio Settings

Record Audio at 48 kHz, 24-bit (48kHz is the video standard)

Set Audio Recording Peaks at -12 dB to -6 dB

If you're using a (usually much more expensive) recorder with low self-noise you may be able to get away with recording peak levels as low as -24dB

Audio Recording

Record ROOM TONE!! (15 seconds or more)

Record long (1 minute or more) atmospheric clips to provide "audio continuity" for scenes

Audio continuity is especially important in scenes with music

Make sure external audio recorders are recording (may require pressing the button twice!)

Still Images

Shoot images at high resolution (raw format is good). Do post-production In Photoshop. Import TIFFS at highest resolution into your video editor. (High Res makes Ken Burns effect possible.)

File Naming

Recommended: a file naming system that includes date information YYMMDD

Video Editing

Set video timeline to match your recorded video settings.

(If you recorded 1080p, 24 fps, 48kHz then set your video timeline to 1080p, 30 fps, 48 kHz.)

Video Export

Output video in NTSC at 720p or, preferably, 1080p (16:9)

QUICK REVIEW OF BASIC STANDARDS

Video Standard: NTSC (Not PAL, which is the European standard)

Optimum Resolution: 1920h x 1080v progressive (AKA "1080p") or 4k (3840h x 2160h)

Aspect Ratio: 16:9 (This is the ratio of horizontal to vertical pixels = 1920x1080)

Frame Rate: 30, 24, 29.97, or 23.98 fps (fps = frames per second – I shoot 24 fps)

Audio Sample Rate: 48 kHz, 24-bit (48 kHz is the video standard)

Shutter Speed: 1/50 to 1/60 preferred (provides just enough blur for smooth motion.)

GRADING

Include the grading scale (A-F) along with the point totals/percentages you will use to calculate the final grade. For example:

A = 90% - 100%

B = 80% - 89%

C = 70% - 79%

D = 60% - 69%

F = 0% - 59%

ASSIGNMENT	Percentage of Final Grade
Foundational Skills Assignments	50%
CAPSTONE In-Progress Assignments	25%
CAPSTONE Project Final Edit	20%
Participation & Extra Assignments	5%
TOTAL	100%

Late Assignments

Rock Solid deadlines are a fact of life for journalists. If you can't meet deadlines then you are in the wrong field. If you know at least two days ahead of time that due to extraordinary circumstances you can't meet a deadline then contact me immediately and we may be able to arrange an alternate deadline for you. Otherwise, the first individual assignment turned in late will be penalized by the equivalent of one letter grade. The second late assignment will be penalized by the equivalent of two letter grades, and so on.

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

This is a high-participation, "workshop-style" course. So much of the learning in this course will come through class critique of the work students produce during the course. It is essential that you "show up" (in every sense of the phrase) for these critiques. That means you have your heart and your head in the game on behalf of your fellow students.

The secret to success: SHOW UP TO ALL CLASSES

COURSE & CLASS PARTICIPATION

Expectations

Students are expected to participate thoughtfully, respectfully, critically, and energetically in all class meetings and online discussions. This participation is essential to both your own and your fellow classmates' intellectual growth.

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors online. Here are some general guidelines:

- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in email or any other communication.
- Use clear and concise language.
- Remember that all college level communication should have correct spelling and grammar (this includes discussion boards).
- Avoid slang terms such as "wassup?" and texting abbreviations such as "u" instead of "you."
- Use standard fonts such as Ariel, Calibri or Times New Roman and use a size 10 or 12-point font
- Avoid using the caps lock feature AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETTED AS YELLING.
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken seriously or sound offensive.

- Be careful with personal information (both yours and others').
- Do not send confidential information via e-mail

See these [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.

Texas SB17 and Free Speech

[Texas Senate Bill 17](#), the law that outlaws diversity, equity, and inclusion programs at public colleges and universities in Texas, does not in any way affect content, instruction or discussion in a course at public colleges and universities in Texas. Expectations and academic freedom for teaching and class discussion have not been altered post-SB 17, and students should not feel the need to censor their speech pertaining to topics including race and racism, structural inequality, LGBTQ+ issues, or diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The concept of academic freedom applies in this class. Higher education is predicated on the exchange, vetting, and deliberation of often controversial and unsettled ideas. In this class, for example, we explore how the public, scholars, and media producers engage questions of representation and media content production. We are not here to simply express personal opinions or repeat talking points, but rather to engage a set of ideas and research findings that have a long and complicated history and are therefore subject to ongoing debate. Committed students and scholars can, and do, disagree on the topics we will be discussing.

This course has been designed to bring these controversies and disagreements to the fore. Students are also invited to introduce additional challenges in a serious and open-minded manner.

Such conversations require mutual trust and respect. It is therefore essential that students feel free to express their deeply held views and continually developing perspectives. This means ensuring that all students and faculty feel included and welcomed to engage in discussion. Because hateful or discriminatory speech and behavior degrades the possibility for a free exchange of ideas, it will not be tolerated.

Virtual Meeting Etiquette / Zoom Etiquette

Some class meetings may be held remotely in a “virtual” environment. In preparation for our Zoom classroom meetings, make an effort to secure a location where you can safely turn on your camera. We all understand there may be times when you may need to temporarily disable your camera, but, to be frank, it feels disrespectful to your instructor and your classmates when your camera is regularly disabled. “Show up” for class meetings.

And speak up. This course is heavily dependent on student participation in the exchange of ideas – especially during critique sessions. The empty spaces in class discussion are even more pronounced in Zoom meetings where microphones are typically muted. Be energetic and help me fill those spaces with your good ideas and thoughtful observations. For the student whose work is being critiqued, a wall of silence can be excruciating. Bring energy to the conversation.

Success During Online Class Meetings (When Required)

While the virtual classroom shares many similarities with the face-to-face classroom, success in online education requires certain skills and expectations that students may not be aware of. Here are some tips:

[“How to Succeed as an Online Student”](https://clear.unt.edu/teachingresources/online-teaching/succeed-online)

(<https://clear.unt.edu/teachingresources/online-teaching/succeed-online>).

REQUIRED TEXTS AND EQUIPMENT

There will be no textbook expenses for this course. All course readings will be either from library reserves or from the internet.

Free software tutorials are available to UNT students at:

<https://linkedin.com/learning>.

Students will be required to complete assignments using Adobe Premiere software.

Many UNT open-access student computer labs, including the computer lab in the Mayborn School of Journalism, are equipped with Adobe Premiere. However, for those students who choose to work remotely and for ALL students in the event of a campus shut-down, it is the students' individual responsibility to gain access to a computer with Adobe Premiere and a license. Adobe offers student discounts for software licenses.

This course will require students to store and access a large volume of media files. Student's may even have to purchase additional hard drive space. 250Gb should be sufficient, unless you are working with 4k files.

Furthermore, each student must arrange for a secondary file backup system on a separate file storage device. It is the student's responsibility to back up his or her work. I will not accept flash storage or hard drive loss or hard drive failure as an excuse for failure to complete a project on deadline.

Please read that last sentence again – this time with a shudder.

Recommended Multimedia Kit

- A DSLR camera with 1080p video recording and manual audio levels controls
- A tripod (preferably with an interchanging plate system for a monopod)
- A monopod with tilt head and stabilizing feet
- A high-quality audio recorder with uncompressed .wav recording (Zoom H4 Plus or better)
- A lavalier mic (like the Giant Squid Audio Lab omnidirectional lav)
- A cold-shoe mounted shotgun mic (like the Røde VideoMic Pro)
- A variable neutral density filter
- A set of macro lens filters
- A pair of over-ear headphones
- A waist bag with multiple pouches
- Plenty of recording space (64Gb?) and extra camera batteries (6?)

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://itservices.cas.unt.edu/software/adobe-cc-creative-cloud2021>

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

JOURNALISM EQUIPMENT CHECK OUT – NEW LOCATION: RTFP– Room 180i

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

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

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

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

Please send extended reservations approval from the Professor to the following email: mayborn-equipment@unt.edu

Journalism Equipment Room - Location and Contact Information

The Journalism equipment room is located at **RTFP 180i, 1179 Union Circle**

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

Equipment room email is mayborn-equipment@unt.edu.

Equipment room supervisor can be reached at ladaniel.maxwell@unt.edu

Journalism Equipment Room - Operating Hours

Monday/Wednesday: 9 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday/Thursday: 9 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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

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

Journalism Equipment Room - Agreement Form

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

[Journalism Web Checkout Agreement Form](#)

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

Journalism Equipment Room - Late Returns/Abuse of Checkout Policy

For every hour the student is late; a ban will be placed on the student's account accumulating the same amount of time. A **ban** restricts the student from checking out any equipment within the Journalism Equipment Room.

For example, if the student returns equipment 2 hours late, a 2 hour ban will be placed on the student's account. If the student returns equipment 72 hours late, a 72 hour ban will be placed on the student's account. If you are going to be late or unable to return equipment that you checked out on time, please email mayborn-equipment@unt.edu or ladaniel.maxwell@unt.edu

The violations listed below will occur if due equipment is not returned on the agreed time.

1st late infraction = 1 week ban from checking out equipment.

2nd late infraction = 3 weeks ban from checking out equipment.

3rd infraction = Semester long ban from any and all equipment checkout.

If you are going to be late or unable to return equipment that you checked out on time, please email mayborn-equipment@unt.edu or ladaniel.maxwell@unt.edu. Active communication brings leniency in many cases.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS & SKILLS

Minimum Technology Requirements

Students are responsible for acquiring and maintaining access to:

- Computer capable of running professional video editing software
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers (internal computer speakers are fine)
- Microphone (internal computer mic is usually fine)

- PREFERRED: headphones with built in or USB mic
- Adobe Premiere Subscription
- Text editing software capable of producing .docx and .pdf files
- [Canvas Technical Requirements](https://clear.unt.edu/supportedtechnologies/canvas/requirements)
(<https://clear.unt.edu/supportedtechnologies/canvas/requirements>)

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

To succeed in this course learners must be able to:

- Use Canvas
- Use email with attachments
- Download and install software
- Use spreadsheet programs
- Use presentation and graphics programs
- Use software for audio/video editing, exporting, and sharing
- Operate audio/visual recording equipment

GETTING HELP

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: [UIT Student Help Desk site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)
(<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)
(<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

Student Support Services

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

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-healthand-wellness-center) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-healthand-wellness-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-andtesting-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-andtesting-services>)
- [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellnesscenter/services/psychiatry) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellnesscenter/services/psychiatry>)
- [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>)

Other student support services offered by UNT include

- [Registrar](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration) (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)
- [Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/) (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)
- [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)
- [Career Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>)
- [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (<https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-andtesting-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-andtesting-services>)
- [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance) (<https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance>)
- [UNT Food Pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>)

Academic Support Services

- [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources) (<https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources>)
- [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc) (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
- [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/) (<https://library.unt.edu/>)
- [Writing Lab](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/) (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)
- [MathLab](https://math.unt.edu/mathlab) (<https://math.unt.edu/mathlab>)

COURSE EVALUATION

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback

to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course. SPOT evaluations will become available during the last two weeks of the semester.

COURSE POLICIES

Assignment Policy

Assignments will be posted in Canvas. Some assignments may be made through email.

Potential Technical Problems

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Attendance Policy

One absence in the course is the limit without penalty toward your final grade, unless you have communicated with your instructor in advance about an extraordinary problem. Coming to class late or leaving early may constitute an absence for that day. This is a seminar course, and it requires your attendance and participation each class meeting. Participation includes showing meaningful work of your own and providing meaningful constructive critique of others' work.

I emphasize that your weekly participation in class discussion is extremely important.

Syllabus Change Policy

It is sometimes necessary and beneficial to students to alter the syllabus during the course of instruction. This will be done in consultation with students and all students will be notified of the changes.

CONTEST ENTRIES

Students are advised to enter their work as often as possible in as many contests as possible. This kind of recognition goes a long way in job or grant applications. Below is a list of the most widely-respected journalism contests available to students.

- [CPOY: College Photographer of the Year](https://www.cpoy.org/?s=Home)
(<https://www.cpoy.org/?s=Home>)
- [POY: Pictures of the Year International](https://www.poy.org/competition.html)
(<https://www.poy.org/competition.html>)
- [NPPA Best of Photojournalism](https://competitions.nppa.org/best-of-photojournalism/) (Annual Competition)
(<https://competitions.nppa.org/best-of-photojournalism/>)
- [NPPA Student Quarterly Clips Competitions](https://competitions.nppa.org/student-quarterly-clip-contest/) (Stills & Multimedia)
(<https://competitions.nppa.org/student-quarterly-clip-contest/>)
- [NPPA \(Professional\) Quarterly Multimedia Contest](https://competitions.nppa.org/quarterly-multimedia-contest/)
(<https://competitions.nppa.org/quarterly-multimedia-contest/>)
- [NPPA \(Professional\) TV Quarterly Contest](https://competitions.nppa.org/tv-quarterly/)
(<https://competitions.nppa.org/tv-quarterly/>)
- [NPPA \(Professional\) Monthly News Clip Contest](https://competitions.nppa.org/monthly-news-clip-contest/) (Stills)
(<https://competitions.nppa.org/monthly-news-clip-contest/>)
- [NPPA Contests Complete List](https://competitions.nppa.org/)
(<https://competitions.nppa.org/>)
- [Hearst College Journalism Contest](http://www.hearstawards.org/guidelines/entry-guidelines/) (Enter with instructor consent)
(<http://www.hearstawards.org/guidelines/entry-guidelines/>)
- [White House News Photographers Association Eyes of History Awards](https://www.whnpa.org/main/the-eyes-of-history/)
(<https://www.whnpa.org/main/the-eyes-of-history/>)
- [Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence Awards](https://www.spj.org/a-moe.asp)
(<https://www.spj.org/a-moe.asp>)

- [Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Awards](http://texasipa.org/) (Coordinated by NT Daily)
(<http://texasipa.org/>)
- Online News Association: [Online Journalism Awards](https://awards.journalists.org/awards/) (Entry fee)
(<https://awards.journalists.org/awards/>)

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.

UNT FALL 2026 Semester Calendar

Academic Calendar is subject to change

<u>KEY SEMESTER DATES</u>	Full Semester AUG. 17-DEC. 11	8 week I Session AUG. 17-OCT. 9	8 week II Session OCT. 12-DEC. 11
Schedule of Classes Available on myUNT	Mar. 9	Mar. 9	Mar. 9
Registration Opens for specifics by student group/class: https://registrar.unt.edu/when-can-i-register	Mar. 16	Mar. 16	Mar. 16
Prerequisite Drop Students not meeting course prerequisites will be dropped from their courses.	July 29	July 29	Oct. 12
Regular Registration Ends	Aug. 13	Aug. 13	Oct. 8
Late Registration Period—For Students not Registered for the Term Students registering late will incur a late registration fee of \$75.	Aug. 14-21	Aug. 14-21	Oct. 9-16
Last Day to Withdrawal from Entire Term on myUNT Courses do not appear on the transcript. After this date see Dean of Students to withdrawal from the entire term.	Aug. 16	Aug. 16	Oct. 11 If only 8 week II
Classes Begin	Aug. 17	Aug. 17	Oct. 12
Last Day to Add a Class or Swap Sections A swap is switching sections of the same course in the same session.	Aug. 21	Aug. 21	Oct. 16
Last Day to Drop a Class Section Without a W (Census) Courses dropped before this date will not appear on official transcript. (Dropping courses may impact financial aid and degree completion. See advisors.)	Aug. 28	Aug. 22	Oct. 17
Drop with a Grade of W Begins Courses appear on the transcript with a grade of W and tuition and fees remain. (Dropping courses may impact financial aid and degree completion. See advisors.)	Aug. 29	Aug. 23	Oct. 18
Last day to change to pass/no pass grade option (undergrads)	Sept. 25	Sept. 4	Oct. 30
Midpoint of the Semester	Oct. 9	Sept. 11	Nov. 6
Last day for a student to drop a course or all courses with a grade of W.	Nov. 6	Sept. 25	Nov. 20
First day to request a grade of Incomplete	Nov. 7	Sept. 26	Nov. 21
Pre-Finals Days	Dec. 2-3	N/A	N/A
Last Regular Class Meeting	Dec. 3	Oct. 8	Dec. 10
Reading Day—No Classes	Dec. 4	N/A	N/A
Final Exams	Dec. 7-11	Oct. 9	Dec. 11
Last Day of Session	Dec. 11	Oct. 9	Dec. 11
University Grade Submission Deadline 4 pm	Dec. 14	Oct. 12	Dec. 14
Grades/Academic Standing posted on the Official Transcript	Dec. 16	Dec. 16	Dec. 16

Labor Day - No Classes - University Closed

September 7, 2026

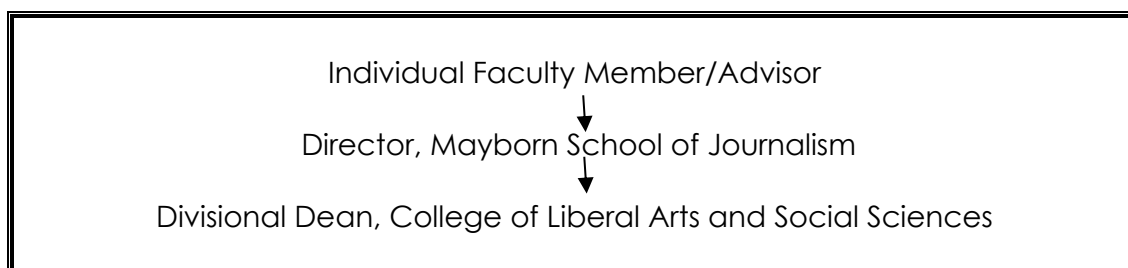
Thanksgiving Break - No classes

November 23-29, 2026

University Commencement

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 ACCESS

The University of North Texas and the Mayborn School of Journalism make reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time. However, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class.

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

For additional information see the website for the [Office of Disability Access](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.

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

This course has no final exam.

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 so do, as this is where you learn about job and internship opportunities, MSOJ events, scholarships, and other important information. Visit the [Eagle Connect website](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/) (http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/) including tips on how to forward your email.

Courses in a Box

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

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

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

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

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Advising Office. The UNT International Advising Office has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

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

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>)

1800 Chestnut St. (Chestnut Hall)

940-565-2333

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

2. [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 Union

940-565-2648

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

This course, JOUR 4720, will help to meet the student learning outcomes that have been checked by your professor, Thorne Anderson.

Each graduate must:

- * Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information.
- * 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.

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