

## Course ID/Course Name

# INFO 4685.001,005: Information Resources in Culturally Diverse Communities Fall 2021

## Instructor Contact

**Name:** Dr. Elena Vassilieva

**Pronouns:** she, her, hers

**Office Location:** #292 Discovery Park, 3940 North Elm, Denton, TX 76203-5017

**Phone Number:** (940)565-3445

**Office Hours:** By appointment. Students are welcome to make an appointment with the instructor at any time to discuss course related questions and issues. Please send email to the instructors in Canvas to schedule online meeting.

**Email:** evv0002@unt.edu

**Communication Expectations:** Important course announcements will be posted in the "Announcements" page on Canvas, and students are expected to monitor this area and read the posts. Students are also expected to check their Course E-mail regularly.

The course uses online communication tools in Canvas: discussions and course email. The Canvas discussions area is a public domain that will be seen by all students. If you have questions or concerns that you do not want made public, please direct them to the course faculty in the course E-mail. The course instructor will make every attempt to respond to your emails/questions within *2 business days*. If you have not received a response after that time, please email the course instructor again, as the instructor may not have received your email. You should be receiving feedback on assignments within a week after submission, and grades will be posted in the Grades tab in Canvas. CLEAR has a webpage for students provides [Online Communication Tips](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (<https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips>).

## Welcome to UNT!

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not

tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT's full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

## Course Description

INFO 4685 Information resources, methods, and services to meet access needs of diverse communities. Issues in the provision of information services to diverse communities. Study of the needs and cultural milieu of these communities. Materials and methods for serving these groups.

## Course Structure

INFO 4685, Sections 001, 005, takes the form of an online class. All course materials are available in Canvas learning management system in electronic format. The interaction among the students and instructors in the online learning environment. It promotes intensive study and exchange of ideas. Students will submit all assignments through the tools available on Canvas. Course includes fourteen topics organized into the weekly modules in Canvas.

## Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

There are no prerequisites for the course.

## Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the students should be able to:

1. Acquire ability to navigate and communicate in Canvas Learning Management System and identify the expectations of the online course.
2. Recognize library and information studies professional practice in resources and services in culturally diverse communities.
3. Identify information resources for cultural and ethnic groups.
4. Research and organize materials on the course topics.
5. Practice effective communication with peers on the course topics and peer evaluation.

## Materials

- There is no required textbook for this course.
- Course learning materials and required readings are provided in the course content in Canvas.
- The course Topic Readings are based on scholarly and professional literature are available from the UNT Libraries electronic resources. To access the UNT Libraries and their e-databases go to [UNT Libraries website](#) and enter your EUID and password to access the resources. To access an article listed in the course materials, follow the link and enter your EUID and password. Look for a Full-text or PDF icon of the article. The [UNT Libraries' Policy Manual](#) includes [chapters on Web accessibility](#) and Electronic and Information resources accessibility Policy.

## Citation Style Manual:

American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

## Teaching Philosophy

To facilitate learning in the course, the course uses multiple methods of teaching, presentation, and resources in various formats that include text, audio, video, software applications. An online course is a living dynamic community and that everyone, from the instructor to the students, must contribute to maintain a positive and productive learning environment.

In addition, it is expected that each student will show a high amount of self-initiative in evaluating and analyzing the course materials and related to the course topics by conducting research, locating the additional reading material, if necessary, for this course. This is part of being an information and knowledge professional. This means that students should be willing to go to the university library (or university library website), the public library, or school libraries, and conduct research online to complete assignments, as needed. It is the student's responsibility to locate appropriate literature and information sources to complete all assignments. Students should be also able to present the results of their research and analysis in an appropriate professional manner using appropriate software.

## Course Technology & Skills

### Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers
- Microphone
- Plug-ins
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Canvas Technical Requirements (<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>)

### Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

Course-specific technical skills learners must have to succeed in the course:

- Using Canvas
- Using email with attachments
- Downloading and installing software
- Using presentation and graphics programs

### 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>)

**Email:** [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto: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>)

### Rules of Engagement

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

- 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 individual’s experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”
- 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.

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

### Course Requirements

Three Reading Discussions, two Video Discussions, four Reference Questions, Research Assignment Presentation, Midterm Paper. See Assignments tab in Canvas for detailed assignment instructions. See the Course Calendar in the Syllabus tab for assignment due dates.

### Grading

Method of grading: Points. See percentage weight for each assignment in the table below:

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade
Class Participation	5%
Discussion Questions assignment	5%
Reference Questions for 4 cultural areas @ 5% each)	20%
Reading Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 discussions @ 5% ea.</li> </ul>	10%
Video Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In two course Topics @ 50 points each</li> </ul>	10%
Presentation (includes peer evaluation)	15%
Research assignment	10%
Midterm Paper	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Grading

**Total Points Possible for Semester/Grading Scale = 100**

100-90 = A
89-80 = B
79-70 = C
69-60 = D
59-50 = F

A – Excellent work

B – Good work

C – Fair work

D – Passing work

F – given when a student (1) has failed the course while still officially enrolled at the end of the term/semester; (2) is failing in a course and misses the final examination without satisfactory explanation; or (3) stops attending class without completing an official drop or withdrawal. It is student responsibility to contact the CI-Advising and Course Instructor for grade arrangements.

## 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. For more information, visit Office of the Provost, SPOT page: <https://vpaa.unt.edu/spot>

**Fall 2021 SPOT Survey administration dates are Nov. 15 – Dec. 2.**

## Course Policies

### Face Coverings

UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

### Attendance

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor prior to being absent, so you, the professor can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

If you are experiencing any [symptoms of COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or [askSHWC@unt.edu](mailto:askSHWC@unt.edu)) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at [COVID@unt.edu](mailto:COVID@unt.edu) for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

### Course Materials for Remote Instruction

Remote instruction may be necessary if community health conditions change, or you need to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. Students will need access to the course in Canvas to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at <https://online.unt.edu/learn>

### Class Participation

#### Late Work

If you have an emergency, please contact the course instructor to obtain permission for a deadline extension. Otherwise, late submissions will not be accepted. Consideration will be given on a case-by-case basis.

Students are asked to contact instructors if they expect to submit work late or intend to withdraw from the course. Students participating in discussions are expected to exhibit positive interaction skills that demonstrate mutual respect for the ideas and approaches of others.

### Assignment Policy

The official due dates for each assignment are indicated in the Course Calendar available in the Syllabus tab in Canvas. The detailed assignment instructions are available in the Assignments tab in the course in Canvas. The instructions indicate what file type assignments should be saved as and where/how files should be submitted.

### **Policy on server unavailability or other technical difficulties**

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](mailto: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.

### Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback

- The instructor's responsibilities in the course: helping students grow and learn; providing clear instructions for projects and assignments; answering questions about assignments; identifying additional resources as necessary; providing grading rubrics, and reviewing and updating course content.
- The instructor tries to respond to emails, discussion board posts, assignment submissions/feedback, and grades in a very timely manner.

### Syllabus Change Policy

In case there are changes to the course syllabus, assignments due dates, and other course information, students will be notified by the course announcements or email in Canvas.

### UNT Policies

#### Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

The UNT Students Standards of Academic Integrity are available at the Provost's office website:

The University Policy Office

#### ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide 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. 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. For additional information see the [ODA website \(https://disability.unt.edu/\)](https://disability.unt.edu/).

#### Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because 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 in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

### Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify 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.

### Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

### 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. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

### Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: [my.unt.edu](https://my.unt.edu). All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail Eagle Connect (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

### Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. **Fall 2021 SPOT Survey administration dates are Nov. 15 – Dec. 2 22.** Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" ([no-reply@iasystem.org](mailto:no-reply@iasystem.org)) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto:spot@unt.edu).

### Survivor Advocacy

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) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-5652648.

### Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

#### **Federal Regulation**

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website](http://www.ecfr.gov/) (<http://www.ecfr.gov/>). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

#### **University of North Texas Compliance**

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 an 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 Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS 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, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email [internationaladvising@unt.edu](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

## Student Verification

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See [UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002>).

## Use of Student Work

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) that the student creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver and Release Form

## Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically-Delivered Courses

1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.
2. In the event an instructor records student presentation, the instructor must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.
3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.

## Academic Support & Student Services

### Student Support Services

#### *Mental Health*

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-health-and-wellness-center) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/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)

### *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 the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- [UNT Records](#)
- [UNT ID Card](#)
- [UNT Email Address](#)
- [Legal Name](#)

*\*UNT eulDs 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](#) 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?](#)
- [How do I use pronouns?](#)
- [How do I share my pronouns?](#)
- [How do I ask for another person's pronouns?](#)
- [How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?](#)

### *Additional Student Support Services*

- [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-and-testing-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-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/>)