

JOUR 5260: Qualitative Research Methods (3 credit hours, online class)

Fall 2026: Aug. 17 – Dec. 11

Class meets: This class is 100% online and asynchronous. All assignments and materials are available on Canvas at <https://unt.instructure.com>

Office Hours: By appointment on Zoom. Please email me through Canvas to set up a time.

Instructor: Jo Ann Livingston, Ph.D.

E-mail: jolivingston@my.unt.edu (Please contact me via Canvas email only).

Course Description

This course is both theoretical and practical in its approach to qualitative research. We will cover the history of academic research and philosophy; the present state of qualitative research (and cultural and critical studies in mass media); the comparison of qualitative research to other methods; its tools and its methods; and the ethics of qualitative research. We also will read examples of qualitative mass media studies in current journals and books. You will employ the methods you learn in this class through projects and discussions.

Course Learning Objectives

- Define qualitative research methods.
- Employ field research using qualitative methods.
- Examine data collected in qualitative research.
- Explain theories and concepts related to qualitative research.
- Evaluate data, theories, and concepts in a final research project.

Required textbook

- Required: *The Practice of Qualitative Research*, Third Edition, Sharlene Nagy Hesse-Biber. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2017. There are three digital copies via UNT Libraries at this link -- <https://discover.library.unt.edu/catalog/b7560183>
- Recommended: *Publication Manual of the APA* (6th Edition) or another academic citation book. Also, [Citation Machine](#), [The Purdue Owl](#), and other citation websites are available.

Assignments

- Assignments (12 @ 50 points each; 600 points total)
- Quizzes (10 @ 20 points each; 200 points total)
- Final individual paper (200 points)
- Total points: 1000

Grading

- A: 900-1000 points (Outstanding work. Student performs well above the minimum criteria.)
- B: 800-899 points (Good work. Student performs above the minimum criteria.)
- C: 700-799 points (Student meets the criteria of the assignment.)
- D: 600-699 points (Below average work. Student fails to meet the minimum criteria.)

- F: 599 and below (Sub-par work or the student fails to complete the assignment.)

Late assignments will not be accepted unless you receive permission from me beforehand. I am willing to work with you if you are having difficulty, illness, an emergency, or other crises, so please contact me.

Course Calendar

Every effort will be made to adhere to the following schedule. It is the student's responsibility to check this schedule every week and meet deadlines as indicated. The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus and the course schedule as needed. Students will be notified of any changes via Canvas course announcement.

You need to keep an eye out for announcements. Your responses to weekly quizzes, discussions, assignment topics will be due by 11:59 p.m. on Sundays. Drafts for the final paper have SEPARATE deadlines as mentioned below.

Week	Due Date	Topic/Reading	Assignment/Task due this week
1	Aug. 23	Chapter 1: An invitation to qualitative research	• Read Chapter 1. • Complete Assignment 1. • Complete Quiz 1.
2	Aug. 30	Chapter 2: Paradigmatic approaches to qualitative research	• Read Chapter 2. • Complete Assignment 2. • Complete Quiz 2.
3	Sept. 6	Chapter 3: Designing qualitative approaches to research	• Read Chapter 3. • Complete Assignment 3. • Complete Quiz 3.
4	Sept. 13	Chapter 4: The ethics of social research	• Read Chapter 4 • Introduction to the IRB at UNT. <u>Details on UNT policies.</u> • Watch videos posted on Canvas about unethical research practices that led to the formation of Institutional Review Boards (IRBs). • Complete Assignment 4.

5	Sept. 20	Chapter 5: In-depth interviewing	• Read Chapter 5 • Complete Quiz 4. • Read: Nishikawa, K. A., Towner, T. L., Clawson, R. A., & Waltenburg, E. N. (2009). Interviewing the interviewers: Journalistic norms and racial diversity in the newsroom. <i>The Howard Journal of Communications</i>, 20(3), 242-259. • Design an in-depth interview project as Assignment 5. See detailed instructions on Canvas.
6	Sept. 27	Oral History	• Read Janesick, V. J. (2020). Oral history interviewing with purpose and critical awareness. In Leavy, P. (ed.) <i>The Oxford Handbook of Qualitative Research</i>, 2nd edition, pp. 457–479. Oxford. (Part III, Chapter 16) • Go to The Portal to Texas History “Women With Words Project.” • Choose one of the interviewees and read that person’s oral history conducted by former students in this class. • Write a 500- to 750-word summary of the oral history you read and how you think it adds to your understanding of oral history and of Texas women journalists. • Post the above as Assignment 6.
7	Oct. 4	Chapter 6: Focus Group Research	• Read Chapter 6. • Complete Quiz 5. • Read: Linda Aldoory, Hua Jiang, Elizabeth Toth, & Bey-Ling Sha (2008). Is it still just a women’s issue? A study of work-life balance among men and women in public relations. <i>Public Relations Journal</i> 2(4). • Complete Assignment 7. • Final paper proposal due Oct. 4. 1-2 pages double-spaced outlining project idea, theory and approach, and research sources.

8	Oct. 11	Chapter 7: Ethnography	• Read Chapter 7. • Complete Quiz 6. • Read: Cathleen Carter & Kris Kodrich (2013). <u>Challenges and dangers of reporting in a tumultuous border region: How journalists at the El Paso Times deal with the violence in neighboring Ciudad Juarez.</u> <i>Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly</i> 90(2), 331-346. Complete Assignment 8.
9	Oct. 18	Chapter 8: Case Study	• Read Chapter 8. • Complete Quiz 7. • Complete Assignment 9.
10	Oct. 25	Chapter 9: Researching Mass Media	• Read Chapter 9. • Complete Quiz 8. • Submit 5-6 pg. draft of introduction and literature review on Oct. 25.
11	Nov. 1	Chapter 10: Mixed Methods Research	• Read Chapter 10. • Complete Quiz 9.
12	Nov. 8	Chapter 11: Analysis and Interpretation of Qualitative Data	• Read Chapter 11. • Complete Quiz 10.
13	Nov. 15	Chapter 12: Writing and Representation of Qualitative Research Projects	• Read Chapter 12. • Submit 2 pg. draft of methods section of final paper on Nov. 15.
14	Nov. 22		Submit 3-4 pg. draft of analysis and conclusion sections of final paper on Nov. 22.
15	Nov. 23-29		Thanksgiving week.
16	Dec. 9		Submit final research paper. Due Dec. 9.

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. You will get a zero grade in a given assignment if you are found guilty of violating the academic integrity policy. You will

also be reported to the Academic Integrity office.

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodations 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://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/).

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 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 classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/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. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect) (<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. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (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](https://vpaa.unt.edu/spot) vpaa.unt.edu/spot or email spot@unt.edu.

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at 940-565-2759.

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) 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) he or she 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.

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 presentations, he or she 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.

Example: This course employs lecture capture technology to record class sessions. Students may occasionally appear on video. The lecture recordings will be available to you for study purposes and may also be reused in future course offerings.

No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

Academic Support & Student 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/student-counseling/services/individual-counseling.html) <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/student-counseling/services/individual-counseling.html>)

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>
- [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/>

JOURNALISM REQUIREMENTS & GUIDELINES

RE-TAKING FAILED JOURNALISM CLASSES

Students will not be allowed to automatically take a failed journalism course more than two times. Once you have failed a journalism course twice, you will not be allowed to enroll in that course for one calendar year after the date you received the second failing grade. Once a student has waited one calendar year after failing a course twice, the student may submit a written appeal to the director of graduate studies and graduate academic advisor (“the director” in the following) to be approved to enroll a third time. Students will not be allowed to retake a failed journalism course more than three times.

TEXTBOOK POLICY

The Mayborn School of Journalism doesn’t require students to purchase textbooks from the University Bookstore. Many are available through other bookstores or online.

OFFICE HOURS

By appointment on Zoom. Please email me through Canvas to set up a time.

ATTENDANCE

This is a 100% online, asynchronous course. Coursework not completed by the deadline will receive a grade of 0 unless prior arrangements have been made with the professor.

FINANCIAL AID SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) GRADUATES

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.67 cumulative GPA first term of enrollment and a 3.0 for all subsequent semesters. SAP will be measured according to graduate student classification, whether or not a bachelor’s degree has been earned. The maximum timeframe cannot exceed the published length of the program measured by the number of years at UNT. For more information, visit the [UNT Financial Aid web page](https://financialaid.unt.edu/sap) <https://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Students must meet with the director 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.

The fall 2026 semester calendar can be found online at <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

UNT FALL 2026 Semester Calendar

Academic Calendar is subject to change

KEY SEMESTER DATES	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			

JOURNALISM EQUIPMENT CHECK OUT

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 **Chilton Hall 410 S. Ave. C, Room 155.**

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

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.

Chain of Command:

1. Individual Faculty Member/Advisor
2. Director of Graduate Studies, Mayborn School of Journalism
3. Dean, Mayborn School of Journalism

OFFICE OF DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

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 Accommodation (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 Accommodation](https://www.unt.edu/accessibility/index.html) <https://www.unt.edu/accessibility/index.html>. 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 proper 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.

Any violation of the above, including unpermitted usage of any artificial intelligence tool, will subject the student to disciplinary action up to and including a report made to the university's Office of Academic Integrity.

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

Final exams will be administered at the designated times during the final week of each long semester and during the specified day of each summer term. Please check the course calendar early in the semester to avoid any schedule conflicts. The final paper in this class is due Dec. 9. There is no final exam in this class.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

As you know, your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs within the My.UNT site www.my.unt.edu. If you do not regularly check EagleConnect or link it to your favorite e-mail account, please do so, as this is where you learn about job and internship opportunities, MSOJ events, scholarships, and other important information. Visit the [Eagle Connect website https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk/eagleconnect](https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk/eagleconnect) for more information, including tips on how to forward your email.

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). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty staff, and students. Please make certain to update your phone numbers at MyUNT.edu www.my.unt.edu. Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include: 1) ensuring you know the evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas, determining how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily unavailable, and identifying where you will go if you need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, your instructor will communicate with you through Blackboard regarding assignments, exams, field trips, and other items that may be impacted by the closure.

STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF TEACHING (SPOT)

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 short SPOT survey will be made available to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. You will receive an email from UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via *IASystem* Notification (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Please look for the email in your UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete your survey. Once you complete the survey, you will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, visit the [SPOT website https://vpaa.unt.edu/spot/index.html](https://vpaa.unt.edu/spot/index.html) or email spot@unt.edu.

Spots survey dates:

- Term 8W1 – Sept. 29-Oct. 8
- Term 8W2 – Dec. 1-10
- Regular Fall Term – Nov. 17-Dec. 3

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 classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found on the [Dean of Students website https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students/index.html](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students/index.html).

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, HARASSMENT, & 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 https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students/index.html](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students/index.html) offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs. UNT's Student Advocate 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) <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](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>

Free to UNT Students
801 N. Texas Blvd., Suite 140 (Gateway Center)
940-565-2741
M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

3. [UNT CARE Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>

Free to UNT Students
Dean of Students, University Union
940-565-2648
careteam@unt.edu

4. [Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/clinic-services/psychiatry.html) <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/clinic-services/psychiatry.html>

940-565-2333

5. [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/student-counseling/services/individual-counseling.html) <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/student-counseling/services/individual-counseling.html>

Free to UNT Students
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

STATEMENTS OF STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Statement of Student Learning Outcomes, UNT Mayborn School of Journalism

Since 1969, the UNT Department of Journalism (Mayborn School of Journalism effective September 1, 2009) has been accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. This national accreditation also extends to the Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism, the only accredited professional master's program in Texas. About one-fourth of all journalism and mass communication programs in the United States are accredited by ACEJMC. National accreditation enhances your education here, because it certifies that the department and graduate institute adhere to many standards established by the council. Among these standards are student learning outcomes, covered by journalism courses in all sequences. This course, JOUR 5260, will help to meet the student learning outcomes that have been checked by your professor, Jo Ann Livingston, Ph.D.

Each graduate must:

Understand and apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press for the country in which the institution that invites ACEJMC is located, as well as receive instruction in and understand the range of systems of freedom of expression around the world, including the right to dissent, to monitor and criticize power, and to assemble and petition for redress of grievances

Demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications

Demonstrate an understanding of diversity in domestic society in relation to mass communications

Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society

X Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information

X Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity

X Think critically, creatively and independently

X Conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they work

X 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 basic numerical and statistical concepts

X Apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work