

ENGL 1320: First Year Writing at the University of North Texas

ENGL 1320 with Instructor: Laura Yeck, Email: laurayeck@my.unt.edu

Office Location: N/A (anywhere on campus) Office Hours: M/W from 2-3pm & by appointment

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 1310 or equivalent

Required Materials:

- ❖ Paper & Pen/Pencil
- ❖ Technology to access Canvas.

Course Description: In ENGL 1320, you will be introduced to invention strategies, reading strategies, and writing approaches that will help you thrive as writers in a university setting and beyond. With an emphasis on brainstorming, critical reading, analysis, and revision, you will practice genre conventions, gain rhetorical knowledge, and develop a framework for producing persuasive writing about issues that are important to you. One of the broadest goals of this course is to help you become comfortable with strategies for making your writing compelling to the audiences you want to reach. Defining, explaining, persuading, finding, and evaluating good sources—these are all ways to provide insight into topics that you want to share with other people. Overall, ENGL 1320 will prepare you for a wide range of writing expectations, including those that demand research, evidence, and careful argument.

In order to focus your research, this course will be themed around a topic chosen by the class. For the first few weeks, we will read about this common theme and you will use this to brainstorm your research paper topic(s). This will also encourage a classroom community of knowledge so that we can support and help each other with our varying topics and research process.

Students in this course will be able to:

- ❖ Hone and develop reading, writing, and research skills through practice, repetition, and careful attention to style and strategy
- ❖ Develop a relevant research question
- ❖ Locate and analyze academic sources to use as evidence
- ❖ Synthesize sources into a larger analytical argument
- ❖ Draft and revise a research paper that is appropriate to academic audiences
- ❖ Learn to collaborate with peers and provide useful feedback

THE WORK:

ASSIGNMENT 1 – CHOOSING A TOPIC

This unit focuses on reading sources for information and insight, as well as formulating a specific research question around an issue you want to write about and explore. You will draft a research proposal at the end of this Unit.

ASSIGNMENT 2 – FINDING SOURCES

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

ASSIGNMENT 3 –WRITING AND REVISING THE RESEARCH ESSAY

In this unit, you will plan and write a clear, focused, and well-researched essay that addresses the issue you have chosen to write about. You will learn about how to work a paper from a rough draft into a polished final draft. You will submit both a rough draft and final draft of your research paper for this unit.

FINAL REMIXING PROJECT

This final unit focuses on the activity of "remixing" writing through changes to the audience, purpose, and context. Remixing is an activity that helps writers develop new strategies such as using multimodal writing or "everyday" language to reach audiences beyond the form of the traditional academic essay. You will need to translate your research into an artifact or project.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

1. **Attendance and Participation (10%)**
2. **Quizzes and Discussions (10%)**
3. **Choosing a Topic (20%)**
4. **Finding Sources (20%)**
5. **Writing and Revising the Research Essay (30%)**
6. **Final Remixing Project(10%)**

Rubrics and Scoring Systems

"A" WORK will constitute a final score of 90-100%

"B" WORK will constitute a final score of 80-89.99%

"C" WORK will constitute a final score of 70-79.99%

"D" WORK will constitute a final score of 60-69.99%

"F" WORK will constitute a final score of 0-59.99%.

UNT requires you to have at least a C grade to pass this course (D grades will not pass).

Attendance and Absences: UNT policy 6.039 on student attendance states that no student will be excused for more than 25% of a course for absences. However, it is the UNT FYW policy that no student missing more than 20% of classroom instruction in a first-year writing course should be able to pass the course. Absences may occur. Whether your absences are excused or unexcused, it is your responsibility to find out from a fellow classmate what was discussed. You are more than welcome to email me if you are unable to attend class, but I will NOT respond to these emails, likewise I will NOT tell you what you missed in class. I'm happy to provide you with copies of handouts or materials used in class, but I do not have time to recreate the lecture and in-class activities on an individual basis. You are paying for face-to-face instruction, and I expect you to attend class

regularly. If you would like to inform me of an absence due to medical reasons that's fine, but do not send me your personal medical information. If absences become excessive, I may invite you to drop the class.

Late or Missed Assignments: Ideally all major assignments are due by class time on the due date (or by the date and time specified in Canvas). I accept late work, however; work submitted after the due date may not receive substantive feedback or merit full credit, and yet, any grade is better than zero, so when in doubt, turn it in.

Sensitive Content: The readings in this course may contain disturbing content, including, but not limited to, sexual abuse, violence, forms of discrimination/harassment, historical racism and classism, and depictions of self-harm and death. I cannot be responsible for your personal feelings and perceptions as you encounter the coursework. If you know of a sensitive issue that you find triggering and would like me as your instructor to be aware of the issue, feel free to email me (no personal details/stories necessary) just an indication of what content may be problematic. I am happy to meet with you individually about troubling content specific to this course and I can also connect you with appropriate mental health resources and student support services provided by UNT, but ultimately part of engaging in meaningful academic dialogue is being able to reckon with the difficulties, struggles, and injustices of the human experience on different emotional and intellectual levels.

Respecting the Class Community: Be on time and be prepared to discuss the writing and reading assignments. Do not let technology hinder your participation, computers, phones, headphones, and tablets **MUST BE STORED AT THE START OF EACH CLASS**, unless otherwise instructed. We will use personal technology intermittently throughout the semester and I will do my best to give you advance notice of the days you will need your computer in the classroom.

If you must leave the classroom, do so quietly and respectfully; every time you leave the classroom it creates a disruption, so please be courteous and do your best to remain seated and engaged for the entirety of the class, that being said, you do not need my permission to leave to use the restroom or attend to your personal needs/well-being. However, be aware that leaving class early or coming in too late may result in an unexcused absence.

I love a lively classroom discussion (please feel free to disagree with me and your peers) but personal attacks on classmates will **NOT** be tolerated. Be self-aware and do not dominate discussions, speak your truth and allow others the freedom and safety to do the same.

Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback: My responsibility as your instructor is to challenge you, to help you understand the course material, and to help you grow and learn as a student. I will provide clear instructions for all major writing assignments, answer your questions, and identify additional resources as necessary. I will also provide substantive feedback on your written work when it is submitted by the deadlines. You can expect me to have feedback and grades returned to you **within two weeks** of the submission date for each major writing assignment.

Using the UNT Writing Center: The Writing Center provides both in-person and online appointments through our scheduling software: <https://unt.mywconline.com>. Once students register for their free account, they will be able to schedule their own appointments by selecting their

preferred day, time, and tutor (simply click on the white box and fill in the requested information in your appointment form). If anyone faces an issue while scheduling their own appointments, they can email or call the Writing Center to have a tutor schedule it for them. • Phone: 940.565.2563 • Email: writingcenter@unt.edu

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 decision of the instructor will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity, which is responsible for maintaining student conduct records. The incident may result in an official disciplinary record for the student(s).

Academic integrity violations can include copying a passage from a source verbatim, but they can also include improper or misleading citations. Please note that all source material must be acknowledged, even if the material is paraphrased. Be careful to always acknowledge the work of other writers and take the time to work out your thoughts and arguments without copying the work of others.

ADA Accommodation Statement: 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 at disability.unt.edu.

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. II. Optional Statements.

Sexual Assault Prevention: UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. If you are a survivor of relational or sexual violence, there is support for you. There are on- and off-campus resources available to survivors at no cost. Counseling and Testing Services can provide confidential mental health counseling. They are in Chestnut Hall 311. You may also call (940) 565-2741 to schedule an appointment. Denton County Friends of the Family is a community agency that offers free counseling and 24/7 crisis hotline services to survivors. Contact them at (940) 387-5131. The UNT Survivor advocate can assist in reporting options, arrange for

academic and housing accommodations, schedule appointments and help connect students to UNT and other community resources. They are in Union 409 and can be contacted at (940) 565-2648. To report sexual misconduct to Equal Opportunity & Title IX, visit report.unt.edu. The UNT Police Department can be contacted at (940) 565-3000.

Required Reporting: As your instructor, I am designated as a responsible employee for UNT, and I am required by law to report any disclosed instances of harassment or discrimination to university administration.