



### **ENGL 1301: First Year Writing at the University of North Texas**

ENGL 1301.405 with Instructor: Laura Yeck, Email: [laurayeck@my.unt.edu](mailto:laurayeck@my.unt.edu)

Office Hours: virtual only & by appointment, email me and we can set up a time to meet over zoom/conference call.

**Catalog Description:** 3 hours. Writing as discovery. Introduces essential concepts, knowledge, skills, methods, and conventions for writing. Focuses on practicing writing processes and developing rhetorical knowledge through analysis, observation, and self-reflection.

**Prerequisite(s):** None Core Category: English Composition and Rhetoric

#### **Required Materials:**

Both ENGL 1310 and ENGL 1320 courses will use:

- Paper & Pen/Pencil
- Technology to access Canvas
- Materials posted in Canvas

#### **Program Values**

##### **Writing develops through inquiry, experimentation, and discovery.**

- The act of writing encourages intellectual and personal development, and leads to greater knowledge retention, deep reflection, and empathy. Writing may teach us new ways to understand ourselves, our world, our communities, and others better. Through writing and listening to the writing of others, we grow intellectually, reflect deeply, and respond empathetically to vital issues facing ourselves, our communities, and our world.

##### **Writing facilitates critical thinking about complex issues.**

- Writing is a practice of responding clearly, concisely, and coherently to complex issues. Students studying writing develop their logical skills and learn strategies to address critical problems and attune to audiences with precision and purpose.

**Writing takes place through a lifelong process supported by revision and reflection.**

- Beyond traditional academic skills and rules of writing, writers develop flexible strategies to read, listen, plan, and collaborate with others by revisiting and reflecting on their writing experiences. Students studying writing learn to reflect on their own writing processes, which might include critical reading, planning, drafting, collaborating, revising, and reflecting, through multiple pages of drafted material.

**Writing can give us agency to intervene in social issues.**

- Writers intervene in their communities by addressing audience needs and concerns. Academic audiences expect writers to address difficult questions through well-researched writing that is supported with compelling evidence. Other kinds of audiences and communities expect writers to address their needs differently, through flexible rhetorical strategies that offer relevant and timely information.

**Writing is integral to information literacy and critical reading.**

- In order to write ethically and build credibility with audiences, writers must read sources carefully and know how to assess and use information effectively.

**Writing is learned through effective and engaging teaching.**

- The First-Year Writing program at UNT provides its instructors with ongoing educational training to help them deliver effective and engaging instruction to students. UNT FYW acknowledges excellence in teaching and fosters a culture that facilitates thoughtful instruction and promotes student success.

**Course Objectives**

Students in this course will be able to:

- **Assess** and **explain** their own writing habits reflectively
- **Identify** and **describe** events from their own personal experiences that give insight into larger cultural issues
- **Observe** and **examine** details that make other people, objects, or places unique within specific cultural or social groups

- **Analyze** and **evaluate** specific concepts or texts that have significance within larger cultural conversations
- **Cultivate** effective writing processes through repetition, practice, and revision
- **Compare** and **rate** their contributions as a team member to peer review and other team-based assignments

## Grade Breakdown

Note: To earn a passing grade, you must complete all major writing assignments.

Major Writing Assignments:

- 15% – Unit 1 – Personal Learning Narrative
- 20% - Unit 2 – Observation Essay
- 30% - Unit 3 – Writing Analysis
- 5% - Unit 4 – Final Reflection
- 20% - Canvas Assignments
- 10% - In-class Participation
- 100% - Total

\*\*Note that rubrics for each assignment will be posted in Canvas

## Rubrics and Scoring Systems

**“A” WORK** will constitute a final score of 90-100% of total points, and will represent an overall response that is impressively sophisticated and illuminating: inventive, balanced, justified, effective, mature, and expertly-situated in time and context

**“B” WORK** will constitute a final score of 80-89.99% of total points, and will represent an overall response that is thorough and systematic: skilled, revealing, developed, perceptive, but not unusually or surprisingly original

**“C” WORK** will constitute a final score of 70-79.99% of total points, and will represent an overall response that is acceptable but limited: coherent, significant, and perhaps even insightful in places, but ultimately insufficient in organization, articulation, perception, and/or effectiveness

**“D” WORK** will constitute a final score of 60-69.99% of total points, and will represent an overall response that is incomplete and severely lacking: incoherent, limited, uncritical,

immature, undeveloped, and overall not reflective of the performance expected of UNT undergraduates

**“F” WORK** will constitute a final score of 0-59.99% of total points, and will represent an overall response that is unacceptable.

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

**FINAL EXAM:** per university schedule – in-class meeting.

**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.** If you miss more than 20% of the class (3 weeks for a 15-week course), then I am authorized to **keep you from passing the course.**

Note that absences for the following reasons are authorized as excusable by the university (policy 06.039): (1) religious holy day, including travel for that purpose; (2) active military service, including travel for that purpose; (3) participation in an official university function; (4) illness or other extenuating circumstances; (5) pregnancy and parenting under Title IX; and (6) when the University is officially closed by the President.

Whether your absences are excused or unexcused, it is your responsibility to find out from a fellow classmate what was discussed. I’m happy to provide you with copies of handouts or materials used in class but I do not have the time 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.**

**Late or Missed Assignments:** Ideally all papers are due by class time on the due date (or by the date specified in Canvas). **If you cannot meet the deadline specified in Canvas, please email BEFORE the deadline passes.** Additionally, I will not grade subsequent assignments from any students until all previous major writing assignments have been completed, and you cannot pass the course if you have not received a grade for all major assignments. **ALL course work (except the final reflection) must be completed and submitted in Canvas by 11:59PM of the Sunday before Finals, July 20th 2025.**

**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. 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:** It is recommended that you [schedule an appointment with the UNT Writing Center https://writingcenter.unt.edu/online-tutoring](https://writingcenter.unt.edu/online-tutoring) to request extra help with all of your assignments for this class. All writers can benefit from sharing and discussing their work with a trained peer tutor, early and often. A writing tutor can help you get started on a paper or help you decide what to revise on an existing draft. In order to make an appointment with a writing tutor, visit . During your appointment, a writing tutor can help you develop your ideas, organize your thoughts, and clarify your prose.

**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.

**AI Generated Writing:** The use of generative AI writing tools (such as ChatGPT, GrammarlyGO, GPT-3, GPT-4, BERT, or others) is allowed in this class within specific contexts and only if such use is properly acknowledged. Assignments for the course have been designed to help you develop as a writer, and some of them may call on you to practice writing with the help of such tools. As your instructor, I will assume that any use of these tools will be only within the contexts the assignment allows (for instance, you can use ChatGPT for brainstorming if the assignment asks you to do so). Text copied and pasted directly from AI Generated apps must be [bracketed]. Also, you must acknowledge the use of AI in your assignment in an "Acknowledgement of AI Use" statement that:

- Specifies which technology was used and on what date (ChatGPT, GPT-3, etc)
- Includes explicit descriptions of how the information was generated

- Identifies the prompts used
- Explains how the output was used in your work

Always refer to specific assignment instructions when working with AI generated text. Include your "Acknowledgement of AI Use" statement at the end of the assignment.

**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](http://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. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648

**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.

## Getting Help

Technical Assistance: Part of working with technology involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when it 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:** <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm> [Links to an external site.](#) 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> [Links to an external site.](#) ()