

ENGL 1310 | Fall 2025

Instructor | Lauren Kalstad

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University Policies

We will uphold the following university policies in all English courses.

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--submitting work that is not your own (This includes using ChatGPT)
- Fabrication--pretending you are writing about a real interview when you really made it up
- Facilitating academic dishonesty--helping someone else cheat
- Forgery--pretending your work is someone else's
- Plagiarism--using someone else's published work without citing it correctly
- Sabotage--setting someone else up to fail

A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. I am obligated to report any academic dishonesty.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT.

Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom, and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the [Code of Student Conduct](#). The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

The [Dean of Students Office](#) enforces the [Code of Student Conduct](#). The Code explains:

- What conduct is prohibited
- The process the DOS uses to review reports of alleged misconduct by students
- The sanctions that can be assigned
- When students may have violated the Code, they meet with a representative from the Dean of Students Office to discuss the alleged misconduct in an educational process.

ADA Accommodation

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. To receive accommodation, follow these steps:

- Register with the Office of Disability Access (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.
- Students must obtain a new letter of accommodation every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website](#). You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

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
- Dean of Students Office: 940-565-2648

Visit [Title IX Student Information](#) for more resources.

Undocumented Students

Please see UNT'S [Resources for DACA Students](#) web page for more information.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called [Eagle Alert](#) to quickly provide 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.

First Year Writing (FYW) Policies

In addition to the policies provided by UNT, our department also has policies that we use to ensure that you are treated fairly.

Evaluation and Grading

Major Assignments | 20% Per Paper

The Learning Narrative

The Observation Essay

The Analysis Essay

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

Weekly Writing | 10%

Discussions | 10%

Peer Review | 5%

Quizzes | 10%

Peer Review | 5%

Rubrics and Scoring Systems

For the purposes of this course, we describe the grades you will be assigned in this way:

Explanation of Grades

GRADE	DESCRIPTION
A 90-100	Exceeds the assignment's requirements and has few to no errors. Shows a mastery of the concepts being taught. Is impressively sophisticated, inventive, balanced, justified, effective, mature, and expertly situated in time and context.

B 80-89	Meets the assignment's requirements and has few errors. Shows a high level of understanding of the concepts being taught. Skilled, revealing, developed, perceptive, but not unusually or surprisingly original.
C 70-79	Meets most of the assignment's requirements but has some errors. Shows some understanding of the concepts being taught. Coherent, significant, and perhaps even insightful in places, but ultimately challenged in organization, articulation, perception, and/or effectiveness.
D 60-69	Does not meet most of the assignment's requirements and has many errors. Shows a low level of understanding of the concepts being taught. Offers an overall response that is incomplete and may be severely lacking: incoherent, limited, uncritical, immature, undeveloped, and overall not reflective of the performance expected of UNT undergraduates.
F 59 or below	Does not meet the assignment's requirements. The number of errors impedes the work's meaning. Shows no understanding of the concepts being taught.

Program Values

The assignments and activities for your course were designed carefully and are based on the following departmental values.

We develop our writing skills 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.

When we write, we develop our ability to think critically 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 with precision and purpose.

Writing is 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 is a powerful tool and can give us agency to intervene in social issues.

Writers intervene in their communities by addressing an audience's 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.

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 (FYW) 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.

Communication Expectations

Communication is key to your success. When you need to reach me, follow these practices:

- Communicate with me formally through my UNT email address: yourname@unt.edu.
- Include the course and section number in the subject line: 1310.XXX
- Use appropriate salutations and grammatical language: "Dear XX"
- Treat all emails as professional communication.
- Respect the personal identities and privacy of yourself, me, and others.
- Respect identities based on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and/or culture.
- Think carefully about what you reveal and do not reveal, particularly if this information involves your health and/or classroom performance. If your emails contain any information that causes me to be concerned for your safety or the safety of others, I am required to report it.
- Refrain from making personal attacks or using language that discriminates based on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and/or culture.

Note / I am not able to discuss any information relating to academic records through email.

Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback

My responsibility as your instructor is to:

- Challenge you.
- Help you understand the course material.
- Help you grow and learn as a student.
- To achieve these goals, I will:
- Provide clear instructions for projects and assignments.
- Answer your questions.
- Identify additional resources as necessary.
- Provide substantive feedback on your written work within two weeks of the submission date for each assignment.

Participation and Civility

We are all members of an academic community where it is our shared responsibility to cultivate a climate where all students/individuals are valued and where both they and their ideas are treated with respect.

Therefore, I expect you to conduct yourself in a professional and respectful manner during all online interactions and class-related activities. I expect you to listen to and respect the viewpoints of others, even if you strongly disagree with them. When you do voice disagreement in your writing, do so in a civil manner. Remember that you are accountable for your actions in this course, including your submitted work, your grades, and your interactions with me and with other students.

Everyone will have multiple opportunities to participate in class. Participation can be many things, including the following:

- Participating actively in small group work, class meetings, and discussions
- Showing attention to others in discussion posts
- Completing all assignments on time
- Coming prepared to conferences/office hours

Here are some of the “Rules of Engagement” UNT recommends as guidelines for our class:

- 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 individuals’ experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- 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.

You also can visit the [Engagement Guidelines](#) page for more information.

Using Canvas

Canvas is an important tool to help you succeed, and we will use it extensively:

- Submit all assignments through Canvas, including quizzes, discussions, weekly writings, and major assignments.
- Check Announcements at least once a day. I will communicate important information about our course as an announcement.
- All students have access to Canvas through their UNT accounts. For more information on using Canvas, see <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>.

Direct questions regarding your use of the Canvas learning management system to the student help desk at:

- Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
- Phone: 940-565-2324.

Make plans to have a backup way to access the technology each week: another computer, the local library, or one of UNT's open access computer labs. Not having access to the course will not excuse you from the workload each week.

Formatting Your Assignments

All written work needs to be typed and submitted online to Canvas. For all essays,

- Include your name and the page number on the top right of each page (i.e., Lastname 1)
- Include a date and the course number, ENGL 1310, on the top left of each page.
- Use Calibri 12 pt, with one-inch (1”) margins, and double-spacing.

Late or Missed Assignments

I will follow these policies when deciding whether to accept late work:

- All papers are due by the date specified in Canvas.
- If you need extra time on a paper, you must request your extension at least 24 hours before the paper is due.
- I will deduct 5 points for each day (not business day) your work is late.
- You cannot pass the course if you have not received a grade for all major assignments.
- Meet with me as soon as possible if you miss a deadline for an assignment.

AI

Each new technology that emerges brings with it a new wave of fear concerning unethical student use. The calculator sparked outrage and was initially banned, but later accepted once it was realized that this new tool was not going anywhere. In the article “New Technology Has Always Been Scary,” Christian Keil writes, “People worried that subways violated the will of God by getting people closer to hell, and that telephones would let people communicate with the dead. Early elevators were plagued by consumers who felt “elevator sickness” after their rides. And with the advent of the passenger train, people worried that “the unprecedented speeds of railroad travel could send women’s uteruses hurling from their bodies.”

This new discussion around AI and more specifically ChatGPT has a lot of folks pretty concerned. Where does this fear come from – the unknown! We fear what we don’t fully understand, and that is the reason for the outrage. “Oh no, the internet will mean that students don’t need school.” Well, no, the internet is a tool now that we all understand and use regularly with no alarm or dismay. Plagiarism and “cheating” in school have been around for centuries, so obviously we want to view this new technology in a way that is supportive but not a replacement. This is the same way we are going to approach ChatGPT. Just as there is ethical use for all the tools at your disposal, we will use ChatGPT to streamline projects, to brainstorm and drum up inspiration, and ultimately to help us along with our writing process. ChatGPT is not a replacement for your own thoughts, words, and insight – it is simply a tool to aid you. You don’t ask your friend to write your papers in this class, you do not find a paper online then copy and paste, and you do not ask ChatGPT to write your paper for you because this is a substitute for your own talents.

In this class, I want YOUR thoughts, your passion, your arguments and your contribution. In support of your own critical thinking, we will go over **actionable, accessible way to use AI in the classroom**. However, you are an adult with the ability to make your own decisions. If you’ve decided that you will not be using AI, then that is fine. I will only let the class know that you are able to use AI on certain assignments, and you choose to use it that is up to you.

But, lastly, it's important to note that AI will not be used to write any portion of your major assignments. This is not prohibited by our department guidelines and will be reported. Please just don't, because it's a lot of paperwork, embarrassment, time, and consequence. It's not worth it. I'm excited to talk to you today about why writing classes are important, and what you will take away from this course over the next four months.

Public Writing

All your submitted writing for this course, including pre-writing, drafts, in-class assignments, and final projects, is public writing. The writing that you submit in this course may be viewed by me and possibly your classmates as well. Please do not submit any information about yourself that you do not want to be public.

Syllabus Change Policy

I have made every attempt to provide your syllabus as an accurate overview of the course. However, unanticipated circumstances may make it necessary for me to modify the syllabus during the semester. These circumstances may arise in response to the progress, needs, and experiences of students. Advance notice will be given for any changes made to the syllabus, and changes will always be to your benefit – not your detriment.

Technical Requirements & Skills

To complete much of the work, you must have the correct tools:

- Computer with word processing capabilities, internet access, and web browser
- [Canvas Technical Requirements](#)

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

Students in this course should be able to

- Use Canvas
- Use email with attachments

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 me 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 EUIDs 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?](#)

CORE Requirements Fulfillment

ENGL 1310 meets one of your CORE Communication requirements. The state defines "communication" as:

Focus on developing ideas and expressing them clearly, considering the effect of the message, fostering understanding, and building the skills needed to communicate persuasively. Courses involve the command of oral, aural, written, and visual literacy skills that enable people to exchange messages appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience.

This course has four objectives:

- Critical Thinking Skills | innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
- Communication Skills | effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication

- Teamwork | ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- Personal Responsibility | ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

SWW – *Steps to Writing Well* textbook

WCLP – *Write and Communicate Like a Professional*

WEEK 1	READINGS	DISCUSSIONS	ASSIGNMENTS
8/18 - 8/22	SWW—Ch 8 WCLP—7-17	Understanding the Course Expectations Introductions Understanding How to Complete Weekly Writing	Quiz Course Policies Ch 8 Quiz Weekly Writing 1
WEEK 2	READINGS	DISCUSSIONS	ASSIGNMENTS
8/25 – 8/29	SWW—1 & 17 WCLP—27-41 MA 1	Understanding MA1 Prewriting	Check Your Understanding 1 & 17 Weekly Writing 2
WEEK 3	READINGS	DISCUSSIONS	ASSIGNMENTS
9/1 – 9/5	SWW—2 & 4 WCLP—41-56	Writing Introductions Writing Thesis Statements	Check Your Understanding 2 & 4 Weekly Writing 3
WEEK 4	READINGS	DISCUSSIONS	ASSIGNMENTS
9/8 -9/12	SWW--5		Check Your Understanding 5 Quiz Phrases, Clauses, Sentence Types Peer Review MA 1
WEEK 5	READINGS	DISCUSSIONS	ASSIGNMENTS

9/15 – 9/19	Video—Creating Sticky Writing	Creating Cohesion Creating Coherence	MA 1 Learning Narrative
WEEK 6	READINGS	DISCUSSIONS	ASSIGNMENTS
9/22 – 9/26	MA2 SWW—16 WCLP—61-65	Understanding MA2 Prewriting	Check Your Understanding 16 Weekly Writing 6
WEEK 7	READINGS	DISCUSSIONS	ASSIGNMENTS
9/29 – 10/3	SWW—3	Adding Detail Reviewing Your Lead In	Check Your Understanding 3 Weekly Writing 7
WEEK 8	READINGS	DISCUSSIONS	ASSIGNMENTS
10/6 – 10/10	SWW--6	Revising for Clarity and Style	Check Your Understanding 6 Quiz Punctuation Peer Review MA 2
WEEK 9	READINGS	DISCUSSIONS	ASSIGNMENTS
10/13 – 10/17	Optional Essay Resubmission		Optional Essay Revision
WEEK 10	READINGS	DISCUSSIONS	ASSIGNMENTS
10/20 – 10/24		Revising for Chronological Order	MA 2
WEEK 11	READINGS	DISCUSSIONS	ASSIGNMENTS
10/27 – 10/31	MA3 SWW—Ch 14 WCLP 56-61	Understanding MA3 Prewriting	Check Your Understanding 14 Weekly Writing 11
WEEK 12	READINGS	DISCUSSIONS	ASSIGNMENTS
11/3 – 11/7	SWW--9	Using the Stasis Theory Citing Your Sources	Check Your Understanding 9 Weekly Writing 12
WEEK 13	READINGS	DISCUSSIONS	ASSIGNMENTS

11/10 – 11/14		Revising to Avoid Plagiarism Reviewing Your Evidence	Quiz Agreement Peer Review MA3
WEEK 14	READINGS	DISCUSSIONS	ASSIGNMENTS
11/17 – 11/21	SWW—18 WCLP—75-83	Revising for Strong Subjects & Verbs	Check Your Understanding 18 Quiz Strong Subjects and Verbs MA3
WEEK 15	READINGS	DISCUSSIONS	ASSIGNMENTS
11/24 – 11/28 THANKSGIVING BREAK			
WEEK 16	READINGS	DISCUSSIONS	ASSIGNMENTS
12/1 – 12/5			