

# ENGLISH 1310: COLLEGE WRITING I

Fall 2025 | University of North Texas

 <b>FIRST YEAR WRITING</b> University of North Texas	<b>Instructor:</b> Dr. Laura Hensch <b>Class Times:</b> MWF, 1-1:50 PM <b>Email:</b> laura.hensch@unt.edu <b>Office Hours:</b> Mondays 2-3 PM, Tuesdays 11 AM-1 PM, Fridays 10-11 AM <b>Office Location:</b> LANG 408G
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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

In ENGL 1310, you will be introduced to rhetorical tools, invention strategies, and writing processes to help you thrive as a writer in a university setting and beyond. Our class begins with personal inquiry, writing about experiences and memories. With an emphasis on description, explanation, and observation, you can practice genre conventions, gain rhetorical knowledge, and develop a framework for producing persuasive writing about yourself and your communities. We will read and discuss nonfiction texts to develop your critical reading habits and familiarity with academic arguments. Over the course of the semester, you will practice ways to gain critical distance and take an analytical perspective on a topic and yourself. You should also learn to use conventions of academic analysis and structure claims and evidence to make your findings clear to your audience.

## COURSE OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Read texts critically and analyze the varied situations that motivate writers, the choices that writers make, and the effects of those choices on readers, including your own.
- Write persuasive arguments that articulate a clear, thoughtful position, deploy support and evidence appropriate to the audience and purpose, and consider counterclaims and multiple points of view, including international and intercultural perspectives.
- Evaluate sources and integrate the ideas of others into their writing (through paraphrase, summary, analysis, and evaluation).
- Identify and describe events from your experiences that give insight into larger cultural issues.
- Observe 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.
- Metacognate on your writing processes through practice, revision, and reflection.
- Compare and rate your contributions as a team member to peer review and other team-based assignments.

- Reflect critically on the ways that social, cultural, and historical contexts shape perceptions of language, then make informed rhetorical choices about grammar, usage, and mechanics by using their linguistic repertoires to effectively reach personal, social, and political priorities in their writing.

## **CORE REQUIREMENTS**

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

**Prerequisite(s):** None

**CORE Category:** Communication (English Composition and Rhetoric)

As ENGL 1310 meets one of your CORE Communication requirements. This course has four CORE skill 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 Skills | ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- Personal Responsibility Skills | ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

## **COURSE BOOKS & MATERIALS**

- **Required e-book:** *Steps to Writing Well with Additional Readings* (MindTap Course) Eleventh Edition, Jean Wyrick, Cengage, 2017, ISBN 9798214162119
  - See the “Your Books” Module on Canvas to get your e-book set up!
- **Free (and required) PDF available on Canvas:** *Write and Communicate like a Professional*, Kathryn Raign and Jake VanderVaate, University of North Texas, ISBN 9781574419160.
- All other materials will be supplied by me or available at the library.

## **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS & SKILLS**

You'll need [a computer](#) with [internet access](#) and know the basic skills necessary to:

- Use [Outlook for UNT email](#)
- Use [Canvas](#)
- Use [Microsoft Word and PowerPoint](#)

## **GRADE DISTRIBUTION**

Assignment	Weight	Due Date
Major Assignment 1 (MA1) Finding Your Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write an essay in which you define “community,” choose a community to write about this semester, describe it, tell a short story about it, and explain why it is a good choice of community for a semester-long English project.</li> </ul>	20%	September 19, 2025
Major Assignment 2 (MA 2)   The People and Their Place	20%	October 24, 2025

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interview people in your community and tell a longer story in which you give a detailed description of your community, its people, and its values, using the interview quotations as part of your story.</li> </ul>		
Major Assignment 3 (MA 3)   Analyzing a Problem Your Community Faces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporating three sources, describe and analyze a problem in your community.</li> </ul>	20%	November 21, 2025
Weekly Writing and In-Class Journal Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low-stakes writing assignments that correlate to the week's readings, discussions, and lectures.</li> </ul>	15%	Varies
Quizzes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short quizzes over the assigned readings.</li> </ul>	10%	Varies
Attendance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short quizzes over the assigned readings.</li> </ul>	10%	Varies
Peer Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be a required peer review for all major assignments</li> </ul>	5%	Varies

## GRADING

<b>A</b>	<b>90-100</b>	<b>"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>
<b>B</b>	<b>80-89.99</b>	<b>"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, and perceptive, but not unusually or surprisingly original.</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>70-79.99</b>	<b>"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 challenged in organization, articulation, perception, and/or effectiveness.</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>60-69.99</b>	<b>"D" WORK will constitute a final score of 60-69.99% of total points and will represent 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.</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>0-59.99</b>	<b>"F" WORK will constitute a final score of 0-59.99% of total points and will represent an unacceptable overall response.</b>

All major assignments must be turned in on Canvas and processed through Turnitin to be eligible to pass this course.

I encourage you to monitor your score and review feedback posted on Canvas; However, Canvas's gradebook is not always accurate. Some grades, such as attendance or extra credit, are not incorporated until *after* the last time the class meets. If you are concerned about your grades, please set up a meeting so we can discuss them.

## **COMMUNICATION EXPECTATIONS**

### **Feedback**

I strive to return all graded work promptly. For shorter assignments and discussions, I will generally post grades/feedback within seven days of the due date. For the larger projects, I aim for fourteen days, but with the rise in cheating and plagiarism, it occasionally takes longer to finish grading a set of papers. If it has been longer than the times mentioned, please feel free to ask me when to expect the grades and feedback, but not before then.

### **Office Hours**

You can walk into my office during my hours without making an appointment (see the hours and location at the top of the syllabus and on the home page on Canvas). Feel free to use my office hours as often as you'd like to chat with me, review an assignment, or discuss any questions/concerns you have. It's been my experience that a quick conversation is the most effective way to resolve any confusion.

### **Email**

I will respond to all official correspondence addressed to my UNT email (laura.hensch@unt.edu) in person or via email within three business days. All other communication methods—Canvas Messenger, assignment comments, personal emails, physical letters, etc.—*are unreliable* ways to contact me. I cannot guarantee that I will see your message on other platforms within any specific time frame, if ever. During busy times, my inbox becomes rather full, so if you contact me and do not receive a response within two business days, please send a follow up email. A gentle nudge is always appreciated.

Please check the syllabus and related assignment sheets before emailing me, and in your email, indicate where you looked for the information you are seeking before you emailed me. That way, if something is unclear or if there is an error, I can fix it. Additionally, when you write to me, please include the subject of your email in the subject line and write your email with appropriate salutations and grammar. For a sample email, read this article, "[How to Email Your Professor](#)." Or, for a checklist on effective email communication between yourself and instructors, see <https://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor>.

**It is your responsibility to check your UNT email during your 'business' hours each day to ensure you do not miss any time-sensitive information.**

### **Public Writing**

All submissions for this course, including but not limited to pre-writing, drafts, in-class assignments, and final projects, are public, i.e., any writing submitted for this course may be viewed by me or classmates. Do not submit any information that you are unwilling to share.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

I have made every attempt to provide an accurate syllabus for this course. However, if presently unanticipated circumstances arise that necessitate an amendment to the syllabus, advance notice will be given in writing via email of all changes, and I will provide an updated hard copy with the changes.

## ATTENDANCE

According to [UNT Policy 06.039](#), you are expected to attend class, and your grade will be affected if you do not attend. The UNT policy states:

The University of North Texas recognizes that student success is promoted by regular attendance and participation in class. It is the responsibility of the faculty member to notify students in writing of any special attendance requirements for the class. This policy applies to all modes of course delivery.

According to the policy, it is your duty as a student to maintain “regular and punctual attendance,” to “participate in all courses.” It is the instructor's responsibility to “record student class attendance,” and “clearly state in their syllabus the requirements for class absence and/or participation and the impact of the absences/participation on course grades. In compliance with this policy, the First Year Writing Program of the Department of English will enforce this policy.

### Number of Allowed Absences

Any student who misses more than 20% of the total number of classes for a semester will not pass the course even if they have earned passing grades on their assignments. The following number of classes equal 20%: 9 classes. That means that **if you miss 9 or more classes by the end of the semester, you will automatically fail the course.**

You will be given an attendance report two times over the course of the semester:

- 6 weeks
- 12 weeks

At this time, the instructor will post the percentage of classes you have missed.

- If a student has missed more than 20% of their total classes at the 6-week mark, they have the remainder of the semester to bring that percentage up.
- Any student who has missed more than 20% of their classes at the 12-week mark will not pass the course.

### Excused Absences

Absences for the following reasons are considered excusable by the university based on [UNT policy 6.039](#), but you must obtain a note from the [Dean of Students](#) (or other appropriate university offices) to verify your absence(s): (1) religious holy day, including travel for that purpose; (2) participation in an official university function; (3) active military service, including travel for that purpose; (4) pregnancy and parenting under Title IX; and (6) when the University is officially closed. Please inform me of any planned absences with at least 10 days' notice to minimize any potential negative impact on your grades.

No other absences are eligible to be excused. Unless the absence is an illness or an extenuating circumstance that exceeds five consecutive days, you may request documentation from the Dean of Students' office for an excuse. Examples include, but are not limited to: (1) temporary disability or injury; (2) extended medical absence or hospitalization; (3) illness of a dependent family member; or (4) major illness or death of a loved one.

### If you miss a class:

You are responsible for finding out what you missed. Before the next time our class meets, review the Canvas page and ask a classmate for notes on what you missed, or make an appointment to

meet with me during office hours, or if needed, email me to ensure you are on track and prepared for the next class.

### **If you miss an assignment:**

Only assignments missed due to an excusable absence can be made up. For excused absences that resulted in missing in-class assignments, it is your responsibility to 1) turn in all necessary documentation regarding the absence and 2) *schedule* a time to make up the missing work *within two weeks of missing the assignment*. Since I must prepare the missing assignment, you cannot make up work as a walk-in during office hours.

## **LATE WORK**

This course requires extensive reading and regular writing. To keep up with the course, you must complete all assignments by the date and time stated on Canvas. I will not accept late submissions of minor assignments (Weekly Writing).

I do not give extensions on rough drafts because they are time-sensitive—they must be turned in on time for the peer review to go smoothly.

For the FINAL drafts of major assignments (MA1, MA2, and MA3), you can request a SHORT (2-day max) extension. To secure an extension, email me ([laura.hensch@unt.edu](mailto:laura.hensch@unt.edu)) before the deadline passes. If you do not request an extension, or if you exceed the time given for an extension, your submission will be marked down half of a letter grade (from a 90 to an 85) for every day that it is late. I do not accept late Major Assignments beyond 10 calendar days past the deadline (that is when you would receive an “F” on the paper anyway due to lateness deductions). If you miss a deadline, please reach out to me—I won’t be mad, I’ll be glad that you are thinking about the assignment and looking for ways to get back on track.

Note that unreadable documents, e.g., inaccessible, unopenable, partially complete, incorrect files, etc., will be considered as a non-submission and thus late if the deadline has passed. It is your responsibility to plan on submitting with ample time to check the submission quality and viewability of your submission on Canvas. Additionally, showing “last edited date” metadata does not qualify to remove the penalization based on any technological ‘catastrophe’ that impeded your submission.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STANDARDS**

According to [UNT Policy 06.003](#), Academic Integrity standards are violated when students engage in academic dishonesty behaviors, including, but not limited to, cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty and my decision on academic sanctions will be reported to the [Office of Academic Integrity](#).

Plagiarism can include copying a passage from a source verbatim without citing it, but it can also include improper or misleading citations. Please note that all source material must be acknowledged, even if the material is paraphrased or sourced from generative AI technologies. Be careful always to acknowledge the work of other writers and take the time to work out the distinction between your original thoughts and arguments and those of others.

**Additionally, the use of any generative AI writing tools is prohibited in this class.** Assignments for the course have been designed to help you develop as a thinker, reader, and writer without using these technologies. You will generate ideas, read, revise, and write independently or when appropriate in consultation with peers, UNT Writing Center tutors, and me. Any use of generative AI in your work for this class violates our syllabus and thus will be treated as an instance of cheating.

Ignorance of the generative AI tools in your chosen digital writing technologies, whatever they may be, is not sufficient to excuse the violation. If you are unsure about a digital writing tool (even automatically integrated ones), don't use it for this class.

## **SAVING REVISION HISTORIES FOR ALL TYPED WORK**

Use Google Docs to compose your rough and final drafts and your Weekly Writing. Google Docs keeps track of your revision history, which is an important part of your writing process. In addition, revision histories are an essential way to help protect yourself in the AI era: if your work is flagged as potentially AI-created (and we all know that AI detectors can be wrong!), your revision history can help you quickly clear up the situation by showing your work and process.

If you do not want to use Google Docs, you may use [write.processfeedback.org](https://write.processfeedback.org) and download your work. However, if you choose to use [write.processfeedback.org](https://write.processfeedback.org), you must be careful to save and download all your work for each writing session (in contrast, google docs saves your work even on untitled documents). If you are using [write.processfeedback.org](https://write.processfeedback.org), i suggest trying a practice document (write, save, download, and get a share link) to make sure you are saving your work properly.

You are required to use EITHER Google Docs OR [write.processfeedback.org](https://write.processfeedback.org) to compose all of your typed writing for this class. For each rough draft and Major Assignment, you will submit a link giving me “editing access” to your original document.

## **SUBMISSION OF WORK**

Final drafts and rough drafts: submit all drafts of essays on Canvas as an uploaded Word Doc file (.docx). You can download a Word Doc from Google Docs by going to File > Download >> Microsoft Word (docx). Then, when submitting your draft on Canvas, you will upload the file from the location where it is saved on your computer. (I recommend that you create a file on your computer for each of your college classes.)

When submitting, add my access to your revision history by providing a link in the canvas submission portal's notes/comments section (to create a link: on Google Docs, click on the blue “Share” button, then go to the “general access” section, and use the drop-down menu to select “anyone with the link can edit”).

## **DISRUPTIONS**

Respect the class environment by using your time effectively and helping your classmates do the same. Like you, your classmates are financially invested in this course, and they have the right to a non-disruptive environment that is conducive to learning. Disruptive behavior includes

- Using your phone (except for activities that use your phone in class and disability accommodations that you have set up with me)
- Eating a full meal—small snacks are okay as long as they are not disruptive through sound (i.e. loud wrappers or slurping soup), sight, or smell.
- Holding side conversations



- Entering late, especially when done in a noisy or distracting way
- Leaving the room during class (exceptions will be made for occasional emergencies and for those with accommodations)
- Being disrespectful – see “Participation and Civility” below

If any student is behaving in a disruptive manner, I have the right to remove that student from class with zero credit for attendance or participation for the day.

### **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. I value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with me to create a classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and belonging. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates are encouraged, personal attacks are unacceptable. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please stop by my office and let me know. We are all learning together.

## **CANVAS, UNT EMAIL, AND OTHER TECHNOLOGY**

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 (there are several 24/7 computer labs).

In addition, save all your work on the cloud (Microsoft One Drive is free through UNT, and Google Docs saves your progress if you have an internet connection). There should never be just one copy saved somewhere that you could lose—all your college work must be backed up somewhere.

**Not having access to the course, the Internet, your files, or your personal devices will not excuse you from the workload each week.**

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

- Submit all assignments through Canvas, including quizzes, weekly in-class writings, and major assignments.
- Check Announcements and your UNT email 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:

### **Technical Assistance:**

[Information Technology Help Desk | University of North Texas](#)

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

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130



## **UNT RESOURCES**

### **Technical Assistance:**

[Information Technology Help Desk | University of North Texas](#)

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

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

### **Writing Assistance:**

[Writing Center | University of North Texas](#)

Email: [WritingCenter@unt.edu](mailto:WritingCenter@unt.edu)

Phone: 940-565-2563

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 150

## **UNT POLICIES**

### **Acceptable Student Behavior**

According to [UNT policy 07.012](#), 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 notified verbally or in writing and may be directed to leave the classroom. Additionally, the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct.

For additional information, refer to the [Dean of Students](#) website.

### **ADA Accommodations**

According to UNT policy 16.001, UNT will make reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA). Then, the ODA will provide them with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty members detailing the students' accommodation needs. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours. Students may request reasonable accommodation at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 and meet with all faculty members prior to accommodation implementation every semester.

For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website.

### **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)
- Dean of Students Office: 940-565-2648

Visit the [Equal Opportunity & Title IX](#) website for more resources.

### **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.

For additional information, refer to the Eagle Alert website.

# English 1310

## Weekly Schedule | Fall 2025

\*This schedule is subject to change at your instructor's discretion.  
Always check the "announcements" in Canvas for any changes.

WEEK	READINGS	ACTIVITIES	ASSIGNMENTS
UNIT 1			
Week 1 Aug 18-24	SWW—Ch 8 WCLP—7-17	Understanding the Course Expectations Understanding How to Complete Weekly Writing 1	Quiz   Course Policies Ch 8 Quiz Weekly Writing 1
Week 2 Aug 25-31	SWW—1 & 17 WCLP—27-41 MA 1	Understanding MA1 Prewriting	Check Your Understanding 1 & 17 Weekly Writing 2
Week 3 Sept 1-7	SWW—2 & 4 WCLP—41-56	Writing Introductions Writing Thesis Statements	Check Your Understanding 2 & 4 Weekly Writing 3
Week 4 Sept 8-14	SWW--5		Check Your Understanding 5 Quiz   Phrases, Clauses, Sentence Types Peer Review MA 1
Week 5 Sept 15-21	Video—Creating Sticky Writing	Creating Cohesion Creating Coherence	MA 1   Finding Your Community
UNIT 2			
Week 6 Sept 22-28	MA2 SWW—16 WCLP—61-65	Understanding MA2 Prewriting	Check Your Understanding 16 Weekly Writing 6
Week 7 Sept 29-Oct 5	SWW—3	Adding Detail Reviewing Your Lead In	Check Your Understanding 3 Weekly Writing 7
Week 8 Oct 6-12	SWW--6	Revising for Clarity and Style	Check Your Understanding 6 Quiz   Punctuation Peer Review MA 2

Week 9 Oct 13-19	Optional Essay Resubmission		Optional Essay Revision
Week 10 Oct 20-26		Revising for Chronological Order	MA 2 Due
<b>UNIT 3</b>			
Week 11 Oct 27- Nov 2	MA3 SWW—Ch 14 WCLP   56-61	Understanding MA3  Prewriting	Check Your Understanding 14  Weekly Writing 11
Week 12 Nov 3-9	SWW--9	Using the Stasis Theory  Citing Your Sources	Check Your Understanding 9  Weekly Writing 12
Week 13 Nov 10-16		Revising to Avoid Plagiarism  Reviewing Your Evidence	Quiz   Agreement  Peer Review MA3
Week 14 Nov 17-23	SWW—18 WCLP—75-83	Revising for Strong Subjects & Verbs	Check Your Understanding 18  Quiz   Strong Subjects and Verbs  MA3
Week 15 Nov 24-30	Thanksgiving Break	Thanksgiving Break	Thanksgiving Break
Week 16 Dec 1-7	AI and Contemporary Writing Mini-Unit		