# JOUR 1210: Mass Communication and Society (3 Credit Hours)

# Fall 2025: August 18 – December 12

**Class meets: This class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. at the Lyceum in the University Union. All assignments and materials are available on Canvas at** [**https://unt.instructure.com**](https://unt.instructure.com)

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Sycamore 256.

Instructor Dr. Newly Paul, Ph.D.

E-mail newly.paul@unt.edu

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**Course description and objectives**

This course explores the general principles of mass communication including the historical, economic, social, ethical and legal factors influencing the operation and content of mass media. It also examines the impact of new technology on media, the main areas of mass communication and careers available.

After completing the course, you should be able to:

* Understand the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communication.
* Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information.
* Understand the diversity of groups in a global society in relationship to communication.
* Critically evaluate mass media content.
* Understand the functions and operations of the various fields of mass media including print and broadcast journalism, public relations and advertising.
* Understand the legal and ethical issues that impact mass media

**Important: Emailing your instructor**

If you have a question about anything related to this course, you must contact me from your UNT email address only. Emails sent from private accounts (Gmail, Yahoo, etc.) often end up in the junk mail folder of my UNT email account and I cannot be responsible for them. I answer emails Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Emails are answered in the order they are received; please allow at least 24 hours for a response. Do not send multiple emails about the same issue; this will only delay a response.

**Email etiquette:**

Please include the following information in each email, each time:

* Your name
* Course information (this is JOUR 1210)
* A brief synopsis if your issue/question
* Please be sure to maintain a polite tone and address me as Dr. Paul or Professor Paul.

**Graduate Teaching Assistants**

1. Rebecca Hsu

Office Hours: By appointment

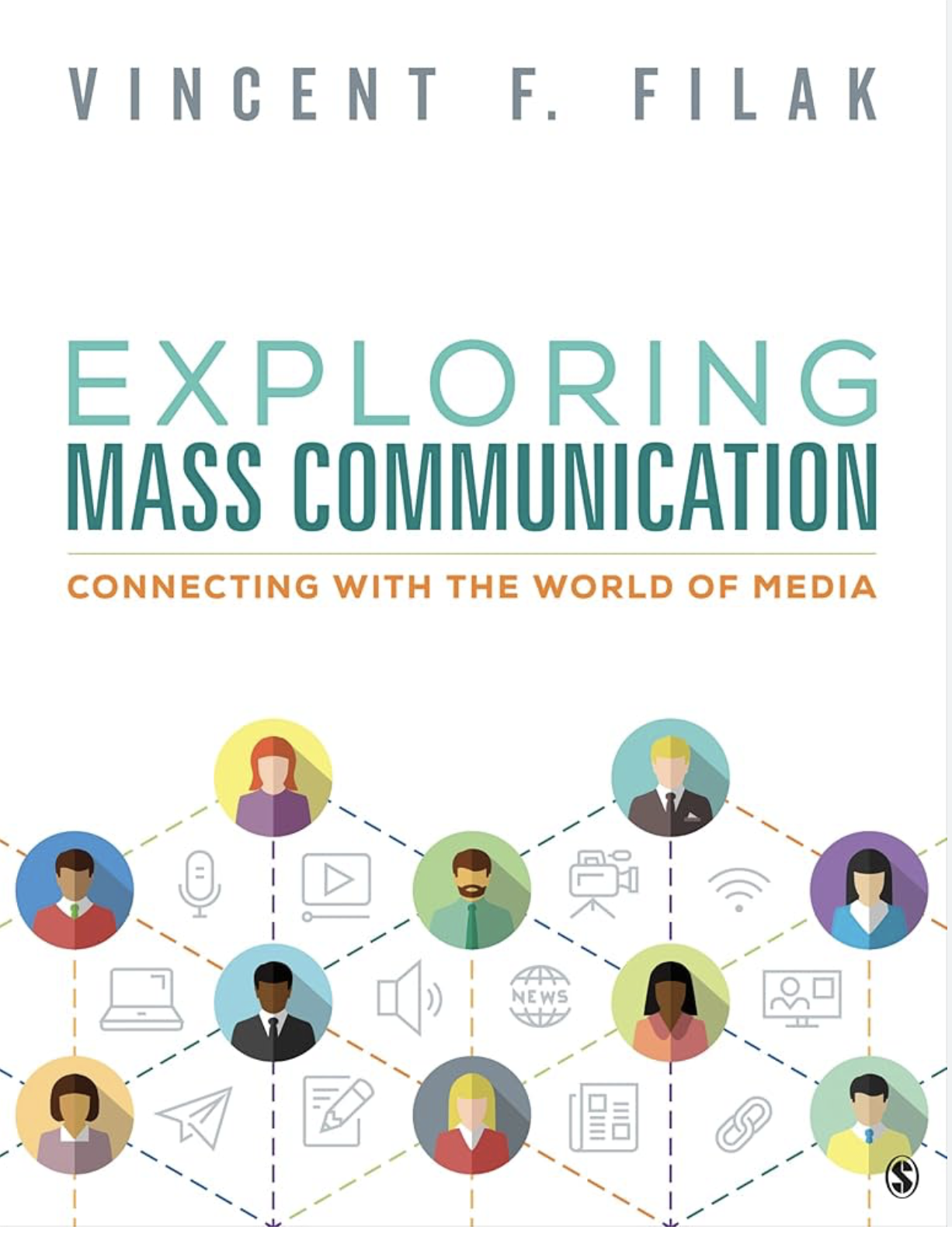
Email: PaiChiaHsu@my.unt.edu

1. Kendrick Hurst

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: KendrickHurst@my.unt.edu

**Required Text**



*Exploring Mass Communication: Connecting with the World of Media*   
by Vince Filak.

You may use either a paper or electronic version of the text. You *will* need the textbook to pass this class.

**Grading:**

Your semester grade will be determined by your score on three exams and various online and in-class activities.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Attendance (27 meetings @ 5 points each) | 135 points |
| Weekly Assignments (11 @ 50 points each) | 550 points |
| Exams (3 exams @ 100 points each) | 300 points |
| Weekly Content Quizzes (10 @ 20 points each) | 200 points |
| **Total** | **1185 points** |

**Semester grades will be assigned based on the following scale (Total points will be converted to percentages):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 90% and up | A |
| 80%-89% | B |
| 70%-79% | C |
| 60%-69% | D |
| 59% and below | F |

I will make every effort to adhere to this scale, but I reserve the right to change the number of assignments and point totals as needed.

## **Attendance:**

## My attendance policies are as follows:

## Attendance is required in this class. You will receive 5 points of credit for each class for which you are present in its entirety, up to a total of 135 points.

* You must maintain at least a 70% attendance rate throughout the semester to pass the class. This translates to roughly 19 classes. I will take attendance in class and update this information on Canvas in the gradebook. You will write a short in-class response and submit it for an attendance grade. If I do not have a record of your answer for a given day, I will not be able to give you your grade.
* If you are unwell or have a conflict or an emergency and you must miss class, there is no need to provide an excuse. You won’t get the attendance points, but you won’t be penalized for being absent. Please check the assignments due on Canvas and complete them by the deadline.

## If you are absent from class and are unable to submit assignments continuously for more than a week due to personal or medical emergencies, please **reach out to me and the dean of students asap** for help in determining a plan to catch up with missed work.

## Any classwork not submitted by the deadline will result in a grade of 0 (except medical and other emergencies). That will have an impact on your final grade.

## **Late assignments will not be accepted.**

**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.

**Your responses to weekly quizzes/discussions/assignment topics will be due by 11:59 p.m. on Sundays.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Topic/Reading** | **Assignment/Task** | **Testing** |
| **Week 1**  Aug. 19 | Syllabus and introductions | 1) Read the syllabus.  2) Familiarize yourself with Canvas. |  |
| Aug. 21 | Ch. 1 – Media Basics: Models and Theories | Read Ch. 1 | - Assignment 1: Student introductions.  -Quiz 1: Syllabus/Canvas quiz. |
| **Week 2**  Aug. 26 | Ch. 1 continued. | Read Ch. 1 |  |
| Aug. 28 | Ch. 2 – Media Audiences and Uses | Read Ch. 2 | - Assignment 2 - Quiz 2 |
| **Week 3**  Sept. 2 | Ch. 3 – Media Systems and Corporate Ownership | Read Ch. 3 |  |
| Sept. 4 | Ch. 3 continued | Read Ch. 3. | -Assignment 3 -Quiz 3 |
| **Week 4**  Sept. 9 | Ch. 4 - Books | Read Ch. 4. | -Assignment 4 -Quiz 4 |
| Sept. 11 | Instructor at ONA conference. No class. | No class. | No class. |
| **Week 5**  Sept. 16 | Ch. 5 – Print journalism | Read Ch. 5. |  |
| Sept. 18 | No class-Exam 1 online | Exam 1 on Ch. 1- 5. | Exam 1 on Ch. 1- 5. \*5 attendance points for submitting this exam on time. |
| **Week 6** Sept. 23 | Ch. 6 – Radio and Audio Formats | Read Ch. 6 |  |
| Sept. 25 | Ch. 7 – Movies | Read Ch. 7 | -Assignment 5 |
| **Week 7**  Sept. 30 | Ch. 8 – Television | Read Ch. 8 |  |
| Oct. 2 | Ch. 8 continued | Read Ch. 8 | - Assignment 6 - Quiz 5 |
| **Week 8**  Oct. 7 | Ch. 9 – The Internet | Read Ch. 9 |  |
| Oct. 9 | Ch. 9 continued | Read Ch. 9 | - Assignment 7 - Quiz 6 |
| **Week 9** Oct. 14 | Ch. 10 – Social Media | Read Ch. 10. |  |
| Oct. 16 | Ch. 11 – Video Games and Gaming | Read Ch. 11 | - Assignment 8 |
| **Week 10** Oct. 21 | No class-Exam 2 online | No class-Exam 2 online | No class-Exam 2 online |
| Oct. 23 | No class-Exam 2 online | Exam 2 on Ch. 6-10. | Exam 2 on Ch. 6-10. \*5 attendance points for submitting this exam on time. |
| **Week 11** Oct. 28 | Bonus reading – Global Media | Notes posted on Canvas |  |
| Oct. 30 | Ch. 12 – Public Relations | Read Ch. 12 | - Assignment 9 -Quiz 7 |
| **Week 12** Nov. 4 | Ch. 13 – Advertising | Read Ch. 13 |  |
| Nov. 6 | Ch. 13 continued | Read Ch. 13 | - Assignment 10 - Quiz 8 |
| **Week 13** Nov. 11 | Ch. 14 – Media law | Read Ch. 14 |  |
| Nov. 13 | Ch. 14 continued | Read Ch. 14 | - Assignment 11 - Quiz 9 |
| **Week 14** Nov. 18 | Ch. 15 Media ethics | Read Ch. 15 |  |
| Nov. 20 | Ch. 15 continued | Read Ch. 15 | -Quiz 10 |
| **Week 15** Nov. 24-30 | Thanksgiving | Thanksgiving | Thanksgiving |
| **Week 16**  Dec. 1-Dec. 9 | No class-Exam 3 online. Exam closes on Dec. 9. | Exam 3 on Ch. 11-15. | Exam 3 on Ch. 11-15.  \*5 attendance points for submitting this exam on time. |

## 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.

**Artificial intelligence:** All work submitted for this class must be your original work—that is, it cannot have been published already online, submitted for any other class, or created by generative AI programs such as ChatGPT and others. Remember that many grammar-checking, paraphrasing, and word processing programs also employ generative AI. Examples of these include Grammarly, Quilbot and others. The use of generative AI in this class, *unless specified otherwise in the instructions of an assignment*, will be considered a form of cheating, and will be assigned the same penalties as cheating. In other words, use of AI in an assignment will earn you a zero grade. The UNT Academic Integrity Policy may be found here: https://vpaa.unt.edu/ss/integrity.

### ADA Policy

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](https://disability.unt.edu/) (<https://disability.unt.edu/>).

### 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 classroom, 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](https://my.unt.edu/). All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student’s Eagle Connect account. For more information, please 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](file:///C:\Users\jdl0126\AppData\Local\Temp\OneNote\16.0\NT\0\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](http://spot.unt.edu/) (http://spot.unt.edu/) or email [spot@unt.edu](file:///C:\Users\jdl0126\AppData\Local\Temp\OneNote\16.0\NT\0\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](file:///C:\Users\jdl0126\AppData\Local\Temp\OneNote\16.0\NT\0\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](file:///C:\Users\jdl0126\AppData\Local\Temp\OneNote\16.0\NT\0\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](mailto: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.

Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver and Release Form

**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

### Student Support 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/services/individual-counseling) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

#### 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 the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

* [UNT Records](https://registrar.unt.edu/transcripts-and-records/update-your-personal-information)
* [UNT ID Card](https://sfs.unt.edu/idcards)
* [UNT Email Address](https://sso.unt.edu/idp/profile/SAML2/Redirect/SSO;jsessionid=E4DCA43DF85E3B74B3E496CAB99D8FC6?execution=e1s1)
* [Legal Name](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)

*\*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](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-18406-42121184808) 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?](https://www.mypronouns.org/what-and-why)
* [How do I use pronouns?](https://www.mypronouns.org/how)
* [How do I share my pronouns?](https://www.mypronouns.org/sharing)
* [How do I ask for another person’s pronouns?](https://www.mypronouns.org/asking)
* [How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?](https://www.mypronouns.org/mistakes)

#### Additional Student Support Services

* [Registrar](file:///C:\Users\jdl0126\AppData\Local\Temp\OneNote\16.0\NT\0\Registrar) (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)
* [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
* [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
* [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance) (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
* [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**

## JOURNALISM COURSE REGISTRATION

* By registering for this course, you are stating that you have taken the required prerequisites according to your catalog year and major/minor status. If the instructor later determines that you haven’t taken and passed these requirements, then you may be dropped at any point in the semester. If you have questions about your prerequisites, please see an advisor.
* A journalism major enrolled in any restricted 3000 and 4000 level classes must have taken and passed all foundational courses. Students must earn and maintain a 2.5 UNT and/or overall GPA (depending upon catalog year) to be eligible for major-level courses.

## 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 to be approved to enroll a third time. Students will not be allowed to re-take 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

## I am available in my office in Sycamore Hall, Room No. 256 from 11:30 pm - 1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and by appointment. We can also meet on Zoom. Please email me at [newly.paul@unt.edu](mailto:newly.paul@unt.edu) to set up a time.

## FINANCIAL AID SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) UNDERGRADUATES

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per semester. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose financial aid eligibility.

**If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so has the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility.**

Please visit UNT Financial Aid (https://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements) for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for you to schedule a meeting with your MSOJ academic advisor or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

## ACADEMIC ADVISING

All first-time-in-college students at UNT are required to schedule an appointment with their Academic Advisor and receive an advising code to register for classes both fall and spring semesters of the first year in college. ALL students should meet with their Academic Advisor 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.

Fall 2025 Calendar

Please check this link for the calendar: <https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/fall-2025-academic-calendar.pdf>

## ACCREDITATION

The Mayborn, which is one of over 100 journalism programs across the world that are accredited, is renewing its credentials this year. Accreditation is important to you because it means your degree is more valuable than one that comes from an unaccredited school.

Accreditation has profound benefits. Accredited programs may offer scholarships, internships, competitive prizes, and other activities unavailable in non-accredited programs.

Accreditation also provides an assurance of quality and rigorous standards to students, parents, and the public. Students in an accredited program can expect to find a challenging curriculum, appropriate resources and facilities, and a competent faculty.

Accreditation is our promise to our students that you will receive the best education possible in journalism and mass communication. With today’s technology, anyone can present information to a mass audience. But not all are trained in the creation of ethical messages that reach and serve diverse audiences that our standards uphold. What you learn in an accredited program makes you more marketable and your degree more valuable!

The Mayborn School’s accreditation is determined by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC) through an extensive evaluation process. Accreditation by the ACEJMC council means we embrace the value of a broad, multidisciplinary curriculum that nurtures critical thinking, analytic reasoning and problem-solving skills that are the essential foundation for all mass communication education.

## ADOBE ACCESS

UNT has a new contract with Adobe. The following link contains all the information that students will need to purchase a subscription, and opt-out of an existing agreement that is at a higher price: the Adobe general educational offer is $19.99-$29.99 per month, our offer is only $53 ($50 plus a one-time processing fee of $3).  <https://news.cvad.unt.edu/adobe-news>

The email address for students to ask questions or report problems is [adobe@unt.edu](mailto:adobe@unt.edu).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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:

<https://forms.office.com/r/q9fakNFTM8>

This form should 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](mailto: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:

1. Individual Faculty Member/Advisor

2. Dean, Mayborn School of Journalism

OFFICE OF DISABILITY ACCESS

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 Access (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 Access](file:///\\cas-shared.unt.ad.unt.edu\SHARED\JOUR\FACSTAFF\ADMINISTRATIVE\COURSES\COURSE%20SYLLABI%20&amp;%20ATTACHMENTS\SYLLABI%20ATTACHMENTS\2021-2022\SPRING%202022\Office%20of%20Disability%20Access) (<http://www.unt.edu/oda>). 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 property 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.  
 **Academic dishonesty in this class will result in a zero grade for that particular assignment with no chance for making up the grade. Additionally, the student will be reported to the Academic Integrity office.**

## 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 last exam for this class will be held online via Canvas. The exam will open on Nov. 22 and close on Dec. 9.

## 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 so do, as this is where you learn about job and internship opportunities, MSOJ events, scholarships, and other important information. Visit the Eagle Connect website for more information (http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/) including tips on how to forward your email.

## COURSES IN A BOX

Any MSOJ equivalent course from another university must receive prior approval from the MSOJ academic advisor to ensure that all MSOJ degree plan requirements are met. For example, courses that are taken online or from a program that offers course material via CD, booklet, or other manner of correspondence must have prior advisor approval.

## 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). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials. If Canvas is not accessible during the emergency, contact me via email or phone for more information. Students should confirm that their Eagle Alert contact information is correct via the myUNT portal.

## 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](mailto: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, please visit the [SPOT website](http://www.spot.unt.edu/) ([www.spot.unt.edu](http://www.spot.unt.edu)) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto:spot@unt.edu). Spots survey dates:

Term Survey Administration Dates

8W1 9/30/25 – 10/9/25

8W2 12/2/25 – 12/11/25

Reg Fall term 11/11/25 – 12/4/25

## 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 Code of Student Conduct can be found on the Dean Of Students website (www.deanofstudents.unt.edu).

## 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, HARRASSMENT, & 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 (http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources\_0) offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs. Renee LeClaire McNamara is UNT’s Student Advocate and she 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) – Free to UNT Students

(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)

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) – Free to UNT Students

(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)

Dean of Students, University Union

940-565-2648

[careteam@unt.edu](mailto:careteam@unt.edu)

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

(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)

940-565-2333

5. [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling) – Free to UNT Students

(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>)

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
  + [Live chat](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/): [(](file:///\\cas-shared.unt.ad.unt.edu\SHARED\JOUR\FACSTAFF\FACULTY%20&%20STAFF\SYLLABI%20&%20ATTACHMENTS\SYLLABI%20ATTACHMENTS\2020-2021\FALL%202020\FROM%20THORNE%20FOR%20CANVAS\()<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>)