COLLEGE WRITING II
English 1320
Spring 2026|University of North Texas

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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

Students in this course will be able to:

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

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

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

10% - Unit 1: Research Proposal Assignment
15% - Unit 2: Annotated Bibliography
20% - Unit 3: Addressing Issues Research Essay Rough Draft
25% - Unit 4: Addressing Issues Research Essay Final Draft
5% - Unit 5: Remixing the Research Essay/Final Reflection
15% - Reading Quizzes
10% - Attendance/Participation (In-Class Writing Activities)

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100% - Total

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Major Writing Assignments:

Major Assignment 1 – Research Proposal

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

Major Assignment 2 – Annotated Bibliography

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

Major Assignment 3 & 4 – Research Essay Rough Draft and Final Draft

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

Major Assignment 3 & 4 – Research Essay Rough Draft and Final Draft

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

General Criteria for Writing Assignments

Although specific rubrics will be provided for each larger writing project, all writing activities in this course generally must meet the following requirements and demonstrate the following desired outcomes.

- **Critical Thinking:** The written activity explains insights that the writer has gained through careful consideration of the research and reading done in the course. The writer coherently represents the complexity and nuance of the ideas they are writing about.

- **Clarity of Communication:** The written activity shows that the writer understands course material and has read widely enough to help audiences understand the significance of the idea they are writing about. The background context and the question the writer is addressing are both coherent and thorough enough.

- **Organization and Structure:** The written activity is clearly organized with a structure that allows audiences to understand its main point as well as the supporting examples and sources that contribute to the main point.

- **Consideration of Other Perspectives**: The written activity demonstrates careful listening to course ideas, course texts, and to consider other perspectives related to the topic the writer is addressing. The writer considers the cultural and social implications of their topic and argument.

Textbook

Steps To Writing Well (w/ MindTap, purchased through Cengage). This textbook is mandatory - you will have readings and reading quizzes. You can find the link to this on Canvas. If you need help with this, please let me know.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

Each module for the next week will be unlocked on the Sunday before. Due dates for Major Assignments will be posted on Canvas, but they will most likely all fall on Sundays. Everything else will be due in class before you leave for the day.

A TYPICAL CLASS DAY

The only way to become a better writer is to write, and write often. In that regard, we will be doing a writing activity every single class period, either during the first ⅓ of class or the last ⅓ of class - I will provide the prompts. I expect each of these to be at least 250 words. You can either hand write these and turn them in to me, or you can type them in the provided text box on Canvas and submit them that way. Please make sure you have paper and writing utensils or a laptop in order to complete these in-class assignments.

Once a week, we will also have an in-class quiz on the text for that week - this is how I know you have completed the reading for that class period. These quizzes will be on paper that I will pass out, and will be composed of either multiple choice, true/false, or free-response questions.

The rest of class time will be spent discussing that day's reading or the objectives of that specific part of the unit. I will always have a powerpoint for you that will also be posted on Canvas.

I do not assign homework - all writing assignments will need to be done in class. I'd rather you spend the time outside of class to work on the major unit assignments.

ATTENDANCE

Per university policy, missing more than 20% of classes results in automatic failure, regardless of assignment grades. Attendance will be taken during every class period. I understand that life happens, so in that regard, you have three excused absences, no questions asked. After that, the only absences that will be accepted, as per UNT policy 6.039, will be emergencies, extracurricular events, religious holidays, and illness, all of which you will always have to email me and explain why you are absent. At 7 unexcused absences, you cannot pass the course, so please contact me as soon as possible if you know you will be absent.

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.

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 a reading quiz, you will have to attend office hours to redo it - but this is *only* if you were absent, not if you were late.

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

I would rather you turn in something late than not at all (zeroes are detrimental in the gradebook), but keep in mind that points will be taken off depending on how late it has been turned in. All papers are due by the date specified in Canvas, unless you as a student have previously made arrangements with me. Note that you cannot pass the course if you have not received a grade for all major assignments. Please meet with me as soon as possible if you miss a deadline for an assignment, or if you need an extension. Again, I know that life happens, and sometimes you just need more time. I am more than willing to work with you - you just have to communicate with me!

A Warning About AI (Artificial Intelligence)

THE USE OF 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 (LLMs) violates our syllabus and thus will be treated as an instance of cheating as per UNT policy. Additionally, 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.

TO REPEAT: PLEASE DO NOT USE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS OR SOFTWARE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, not even tools like Grammarly to check your grammar mistakes. I promise you that it **WILL** show up on Turnitin, the software we use to scan for plagiarism.

If I see that you are using AI (anything more than a 10% on the turnitin detector or other AI checker, since sometimes it glitches), I will 1) immediately give you a zero for the assignment, and 2) we will set up an appointment to discuss the matter. If I learn that you did use it, I will input the zero in the gradebook as final, and will not give you the chance to redo the assignment. It is also policy that I report the incident to UNT.

I would much rather you turn in something incomplete or imperfect and have it be *your* work, rather than it be flawless and written with AI. Make mistakes! In fact, I encourage it. This class is meant to help you become better writers and to help you articulate your ideas effectively - if you use AI, it defeats the purpose entirely. I know that AI can seem attractive because it can help your phrasing and organization - but if you use it, it completely erases what makes your writing *unique* in the first place.

DO NOT USE AI - IT'S NOT WORTH IT.

INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND FEEDBACK

My responsibility as your instructor is to challenge you, to help you understand the course material, and to help you grow and learn as a student. I will provide clear instructions for projects and assignments, answer your questions, and identify additional resources as necessary. I will also provide substantive feedback on your written work. You can expect me to have **feedback and grades returned to you within one to two weeks of the submission date** for each assignment. If it takes me longer than that to grade a rough draft, I will happily give you an extension on the final draft.

COMMUNICATION

When you need to reach me, follow these practices:

- Communicate with me formally through my UNT email address: PariaRahmani@my.unt.edu. Include the course and section number in the subject line.
- Respect the personal identities and privacy of yourself, me, and others.
- Respect identities based on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and/or culture.

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- 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.

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.

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?**

UNIVERSITY POLICIES FOR STUDENTS:

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.

ADA/ODA Accommodations

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. Students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must **discuss expectations with each instructor prior to implementation in the classroom**. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu

Survivor Advocacy

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 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 or at (940) 565 2759.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES:

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)

Other student support services offered by UNT include

- Registrar (https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
- Financial Aid (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
- Student Legal Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
- Career Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
- Multicultural Center (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
- Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- Pride Alliance (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
- UNT Food Pantry (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

Academic Support Services

- Academic Resource Center (https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)
- Academic Success Center (https://success.unt.edu/asc)
- UNT Libraries (https://library.unt.edu/)
- Writing Lab (http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)