

# where no one has gone before

## fantastic journeys

### Introduction

This course will explore the enduring human impulse to journey beyond the known—whether across oceans, mountains, planets, or the boundaries of the self. Through epic poetry, classic fantasy, groundbreaking science fiction, and speculative retellings, we will trace how storytellers imagine departure, transformation, and return, and examine how the journey itself is often the crucible in which the hero is forged. Alongside novels and myths, we will engage with *Star Trek* episodes and the film *Treasure Planet* to see how these journeys evolve across genres and media. Together, we will consider how fantastic journeys both reflect and reshape cultural ideas about identity, community, and possibility.

### Course Texts

*The Odyssey* - Emily Wilson Translation  
*Treasure Planet* (film)  
*The Hobbit* - J.R.R. Tolkien  
*The Left Hand of Darkness* - Ursula K. LeGuin  
*The Fifth Season* - N.K. Jemisin  
*Gods of Jade and Shadow* - Silvia Moreno-Garcia  
*The Long Way to a Small Angry Planet* - Becky Chambers  
Selected *Star Trek* episodes and clips

### Major Assignments

Discussion board posts each class session  
Midterm signature essay  
Final story mapping project

### instructor information

rachel sullivan

[rachelsullivan2@my.unr.edu](mailto:rachelsullivan2@my.unr.edu)

office: gab 515

student hours mw 2-3

engl 234 1-003

fall 2025

m/w 3:30-4:50

lang 210

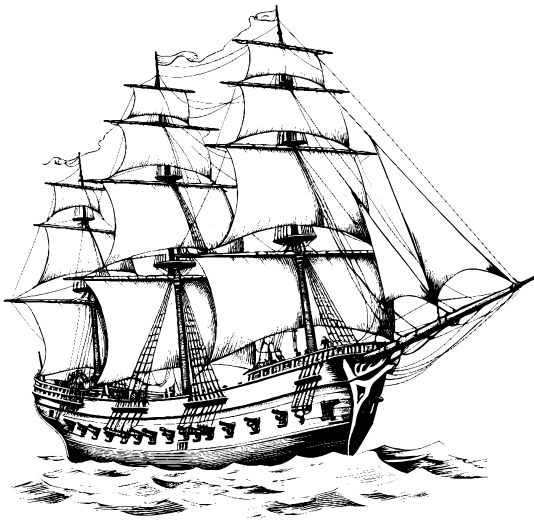
# Grade Breakdown

20% – Discussion Board Posts  
25% – Signature Assignment Essay  
40% – Final Project  
15% – Attendance & Participation



## Attendance

This is not the kind of class where you can miss a ton of class time, submit assignments on Canvas, and still pass. We will be viewing some of the materials during class time, and most of the benefit from this class will come from discussions with myself and your peers. You have to be present in the classroom to make that happen. I know life happens, so I allow four no questions asked absences. If you miss more than four, you will not be able to earn an A in the class. If you have extenuating circumstances, please let me know and we can work it out together.



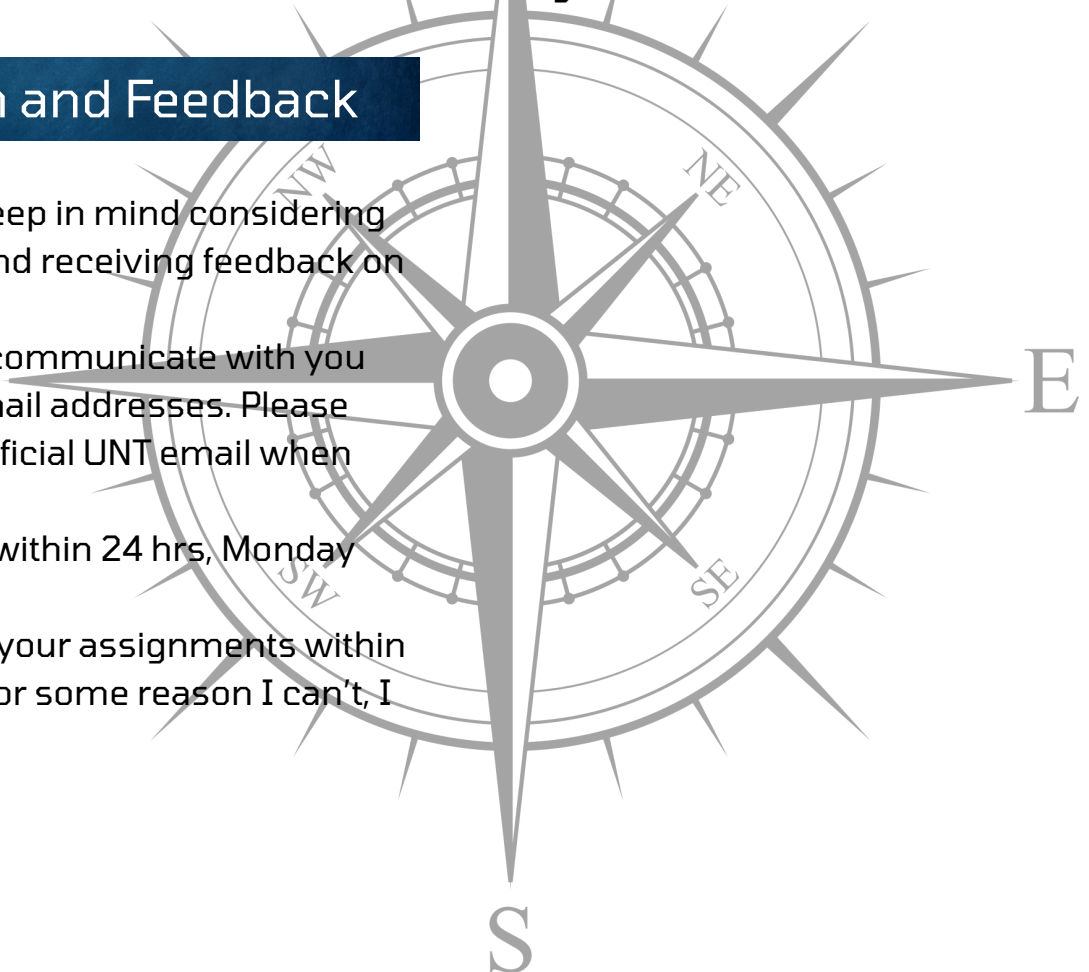
## Communication and Feedback

There are a few things to keep in mind considering communicating with me and receiving feedback on your work.

- Legally, I am only able to communicate with you through our official UNT email addresses. Please email me only from your official UNT email when possible.

- I try to respond to emails within 24 hrs, Monday through Friday 8-6.

- I will get you feedback on your assignments within 2 weeks of submission. If for some reason I can't, I will let you know.



# Reading Schedule

M 8/18	Course Overview and Introductions	W 8/20	In class: View <i>Star Trek: TNG</i> episode "Where No One Has Gone Before"
M 8/25	Before Class: <i>The Odyssey</i> Books 5, 9, and 10	W 8/27	Before Class: <i>The Odyssey</i> Books 11-13 View <i>Star Trek: TNG</i> Season 5 Ep 2 "Darmok"
M 9/1	In Class: View <i>Treasure Planet</i>	W 9/3	Discuss <i>Treasure Planet</i> Themes: Adaptation, rebellion, and growth in spacefaring narratives
M 9/8	Before Class: <i>The Hobbit</i> ch. 1-5	W 9/10	Before Class: <i>The Hobbit</i> ch. 6-9
M 9/15	Before Class: <i>The Hobbit</i> ch. 10-15	W 9/17	Before Class: <i>The Hobbit</i> ch. 15-end View <i>Star Trek: DS9</i> Season 4 Ep 2 "The Visitor"
M 9/22	Before Class: <i>The Left Hand of Darkness</i> ch. 1-6 View <i>Star Trek: TNG</i> Season 5 Ep 25 "The Inner Light"	W 9/24	Before Class: <i>Darkness</i> ch. 7-10 Themes: Politics, gender, and otherness
M 9/29	Before Class: <i>Darkness</i> ch. 11-16 Themes: Transformation and mutual understanding	W 10/1	Before Class: <i>Darkness</i> ch. 17-end View <i>Star Trek: Voyager</i> Season 2 Ep 24 "Tuvix"
M 10/6	Before Class: <i>The Fifth Season</i> ch. 1-7	W 10/8	Before Class: <i>Season</i> ch. 8-11 Themes: Broken worlds, broken people  <b>Signature Assignment Due Sunday 10/12</b>

Reading Schedule			
M 10/13	Before Class: <i>Season</i> ch. 12-17 Themes: Revolution and transformation	W 10/15	Before Class: <i>Season</i> ch. 18-end View <i>Star Trek: DS9</i> Season 6 Ep 13 "Far Beyond the Stars"
M 10/20	Before Class: <i>Gods of Jade and Shadow</i> ch. 1-8	W 10/23	Before Class: <i>Gods</i> ch. 9-16
M 10/27	Before Class: <i>Gods</i> ch. 17-28 Themes: Agency, fate, and identity	W 10/30	Before Class: <i>Gods</i> ch. 29-end View <i>Star Trek: Voyager</i> Season 5 Ep 6 "Timeless"
M 11/3	Before Class: <i>The Long Way to a Small Angry Planet</i> ch. 1 ("Transit")-8 ("The Job") Themes: Found family, alien cultures, emotional journeys	W 11/5	Before Class: <i>Long Way</i> ch. 9 ("Port Coriol")-12 ("Cricket") In Class: View <i>Star Trek Short Treks</i> "Calypso"
M 11/10	Before Class: <i>Long Way</i> ch. 13 ("The Last War")-16 ("October 25")	W 11/12	Before Class: <i>Long Way</i> ch.17 ("Heresy")-end Themes: Peace, community, small vs grand scale
M 11/17	Final project introduction and explanation	W 11/29	Final project workshopping Possible computer lab day
M 11/24	Thanksgiving Break	W 11/26	Thanksgiving Break
M 12/1	Final Project Presentations	W 12/3	Presentations continue and course wrap up  <b>Final Project Due Sunday 12/7</b>

## University Policies

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

## Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences

According to UNT Policy 06.003, [Student Academic Integrity](#), academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to:

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

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

## Acceptable Student Behavior

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

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

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

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

## ADA Accommodation

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

- Register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility.
- If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs.
- Students may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation.
- Students must obtain a new letter of accommodation every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website](#). You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

## Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance.

The Survivor Advocates can be reached at:

- [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu)
- Dean of Students Office: 940-565-2648

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

## Undocumented Students

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

## Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called [Eagle Alert](#) to quickly provide students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

## Rubrics and Scoring Systems

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

## Explanation of Grades

GRADE	DESCRIPTION
A   90-100	Exceeds the assignment's requirements and has few to no errors. Shows a mastery of the concepts being taught. Is impressively sophisticated, inventive, balanced, justified, effective, mature, and expertly situated in time and context.
B   80-89	Meets the assignment's requirements and has few errors. Shows a high level of understanding of the concepts being taught. Skilled, revealing, developed, perceptive, but not unusually or surprisingly original.
C   70-79	Meets most of the assignment's requirements but has some errors. Shows some understanding of the concepts being taught. Coherent, significant, and perhaps even insightful in places, but ultimately challenged in organization, articulation, perception, and/or effectiveness.
D   60-69	Does not meet most of the assignment's requirements and has many errors. Shows a low level of understanding of the concepts being taught. Offers an overall response that is incomplete and may be severely lacking: incoherent, limited, uncritical, immature, undeveloped, and overall not reflective of the performance expected of UNT undergraduates.
F   59 or below	Does not meet the assignment's requirements. The number of errors impedes the work's meaning. Shows no understanding of the concepts being taught.

## Participation and Civility

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

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

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

- Participating actively in small group work, class meetings, and discussions

- Showing attention to others in discussion posts
- Completing all assignments on time
- Coming prepared to conferences/office hours

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

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individuals’ experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts, as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

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

## Using Canvas

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

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

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

- Email: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)
- Phone: 940-565-2324.



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

## Public Writing

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

## Syllabus Change Policy

I have made every attempt to provide your syllabus as an accurate overview of the course. However, unanticipated circumstances may make it necessary for me to modify the syllabus during the semester. These circumstances may arise in response to the progress, needs, and experiences of students. Advance notice will be given for any changes made to the syllabus.

## Technical Requirements & Skills

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

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

## Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

Students in this course should be able to

- Use Canvas
- Use email with attachments

## Chosen Names

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let me know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT:

- [UNT Records](#)
- [UNT ID Card](#)
- [UNT Email Address](#)
- [Legal Name](#)

UNT euIDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.

## Pronouns

Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in person. Just as we ask and don't assume someone's name, we should also ask and not assume someone's pronouns.

You can [add your pronouns to your Canvas account](#) so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- [What are pronouns and why are they important?](#)
- [How do I use pronouns?](#)
- [How do I share my pronouns?](#)
- [How do I ask for another person's pronouns?](#)
- [How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?](#)