

English 1311.018, First-Year Writing I

T/Th, 3:30-4:50, General Academic Building (GAB) 105

Dr. Robert Upchurch, Professor of English

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Zoom Office Hours: Monday, 4-5 PM and by appointment

Course Description: ENGL 1310 introduces students to rhetorical tools, invention strategies, and writing processes that will help them thrive as writers in a university setting and beyond. Students begin with personal inquiry, writing about experiences and memories. With an emphasis on description, explanation, and observation, they practice genre conventions, gain rhetorical knowledge, and develop a framework for producing persuasive writing about themselves and their communities. Reading and discussing nonfiction texts helps develop their habits of critical reading and familiarity with academic argument. Over the course of the semester, students practice ways to gain critical distance and take an analytical perspective on a topic. They learn to use conventions of academic analysis to structure claims and evidence in ways that make their findings clear to their audiences.

Course Requirements and Grading

- 20% -- Unit 2 Assignment
- 25% -- Unit 3 Assignment
- 30% -- Unit 4 Assignment
- 5% -- Reflective Self-Analysis
- 20% -- Participation

Students must complete all requirements to pass the course. This includes assignment drafts and peer review responses. Late work will be penalized as I think appropriate. Students who plagiarize or cheat will fail the course.

Note on Participation. Attendance and active participation during face-to-face class sessions are highly encouraged. You will learn more, perform at a higher level, and have more fun if you come to class and participate actively in discussions and other in-class activities. However, I do not want to incentivize anyone who feels sick to come to class (or penalize anyone who feels sick and stays home). Therefore, attendance is not required, and the participation grade will be based on online discussion boards or activities administered via Canvas. There will be at least one of these per week, and it is your responsibility to check Canvas and keep your work up to date. During weeks that peer review responses are due, these will count as your participation activity for the week, and grades for these responses will go toward your overall participation grade. I reserve the right to increase our reliance on required online discussions and activities if circumstances warrant (for example, if the university determines that we are no longer able to meet face-to-face).

Required Text: *The Composition of Everyday Life*, brief 6th edition (Mauk/Metz, Cengage 2017, ISBN 9780357613740). Purchase of the paperback print edition is highly advised. If you use the electronic edition, make sure you bring a device for accessing it to each class session.

Course Calendar

Note: arrows mark texts assigned to be read in full prior to class on that date.

Another Note: due dates for drafts, peer review responses, and final drafts will not change. The schedule of assigned readings may change, however, depending on the pace at which we're able to work productively as a community. If so, I will provide ample notice. I may also assign additional readings from time to time (in which case I'll provide you with copies or online links).

Unit 1: Why Write?

8/25 Introduction to the course
8/27 ⇒ *Composition of Everyday Life (CEL)*, chapter 1

Unit 2: Writing Experience

9/1 ⇒ Unit 2 Assignment Prompt (in Canvas)
⇒ *CEL*, chapter 2
9/3 Discussion / in-class activities

9/8 ⇒ *CEL*, chapter 17
9/10 Discussion / in-class activities

- *Sunday, 9/13: Draft of Unit 2 Assignment due by 11:59 p.m. in Canvas*

9/15 ⇒ *CEL*, chapter 3
9/17 Discussion / in-class activities

- *Sunday, 9/20: Peer Review Responses to Unit 2 Assignment due by 11:59 p.m. in Canvas*

9/22 ⇒ *CEL*, chapter 18
9/24 Discussion / in-class activities

- *Sunday, 9/27: Final Draft of Unit 2 Assignment due by 11:59 p.m. in Canvas*

Unit 3: Writing Community

9/29 ⇒Unit 3 Assignment Prompt (in Canvas)

⇒*CEL*, chapter 4

10/1 Discussion / in-class activities

10/6 Discussion / in-class activities

10/8 Discussion / in-class activities

- *Sunday, 10/11: Draft of Unit 3 Assignment due by 11:59 p.m. in Canvas*

10/13 ⇒*CEL*, chapter 19

10/15 Discussion / in-class activities

- *Sunday, 10/18: Peer Review Responses to Unit 3 Assignment due by 11:59 p.m. in Canvas*

10/20 Discussion / in-class activities

10/22 Discussion / in-class activities

- *Sunday, 10/25: Final Draft of Unit 3 Assignment due by 11:59 p.m. in Canvas*

Unit 4: Writing Analysis

10/27 ⇒Unit 4 Assignment Prompt (in Canvas)

⇒*CEL*, chapter 5

10/29 Discussion / in-class activities

11/3 ⇒*CEL*, chapter 6

11/5 Discussion / in-class activities

- *Sunday, 11/8: Proposal for Unit 4 Assignment due by 11:59 p.m. in Canvas*

11/10 ⇒*CEL*, chapter 7

11/12 Discussion / in-class activities

- *Sunday, 11/15: Draft of Unit 4 Assignment due by 11:59 p.m. in Canvas*

11/17 ⇒*CEL*, chapter 15

11/19 Discussion / in-class activities

- *Sunday, 11/22: Peer Review Responses to Unit 4 Assignment due by 11:59 p.m. in Canvas*

11/24 Discussion / in-class activities

11/26 Thanksgiving Day

- Sunday, 11/29: Unit 4 Assignment due by 11:59 p.m. in Canvas

12/1 (via Zoom): ⇒Self-Analysis Assignment (on Canvas)

12/3 (via Zoom): Review / Catch-up

- Tuesday, 12/8: Reflective Self-Analysis due by 11:59 p.m. in Canvas

REQUIRED SYLLABUS STATEMENTS

Face coverings: Face coverings are required in all UNT facilities. Students are expected to wear face coverings during this class. If you are unable to wear a face covering due to a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Access to request an accommodation. UNT face covering requirements are subject to change due to community health guidelines. Any changes will be communicated via the instructor.

COVID-19 impact on attendance: While attendance is encouraged as outlined in this course's class participation requirement, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class. If you are experiencing cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, or any of the other possible symptoms of COVID-19, please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider. UNT also asks that you contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

Class recordings: Synchronous (live) sessions in this course will be recorded for students to refer to throughout the semester. Class recordings are reserved for use only by students in this class for educational purposes. The recordings should not be shared outside the class, or outside the Canvas LMS, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.