

# **Antiracist Thought: GEOG 4885/HIST 4261/PHIL 4960**

Tuesday evenings 6 to 7:50 pm

Instructors: Samantha Langsdale and Steve Wolverton

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## **Course Description**

This course introduces reflection and conversation on antiracist thought in four parts: Module 0 is an introduction to the course and to concepts in critical race theory. Module 1 focuses on a history of racism in the USA through the lens of Carol Anderson's *White Rage*. Module 2 turns towards the courage and compassion required of antiracist praxis focusing on *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin, and Module 3 turns toward broader systems of oppression through the lens of Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera*. Because all individuals, including the professors, require growth in antiracist thought, the course is structured around the readings and other materials; however, students and professors will also engage in exercises of reflection, discussion, and creative expression.

## ***Technology Needs***

This course is being delivered remotely. To succeed in this class you will need a webcam to participate in weekly Zoom class periods as well as the ability to write and turn in documents via a word-processing program, such as Google Docs or MS Word.

## **Course Structure**

This course takes place 100% online with weekly Zoom meetings to discuss readings and related materials. Other than the course textbooks, materials will be made fully available through Canvas for each module, with clear indications of what materials relates to each week. Journaling, discussion, and assignments are covered in the module descriptions.

## **Course Objectives**

Students in the course will progress toward reflection upon and action related to the following questions:

- Regarding racism in the US, what actions will I take so that I am part of the solution and not just a bystander?
- What will I do to help UNT and other communities I am part of to improve in the areas of diversity and inclusion?

- How will I contribute to advancing knowledge – my own and others’ – about the impact of discrimination in our world?
- How will I support members of targeted groups?

## Prerequisites

There are no required prerequisites for this course. However, in order to be successful in this course you will need to:

- Fully digest each of the readings and videos to be able to,
  - reflect upon course materials, discussions, and your experiences in your Learning Journal,
  - participate in class discussions such that if you are an extrovert you practice listening as well as speaking, and if you are an introvert you practice speaking as well as listening.
- Choose and develop a class project..

## Required Texts

- Carol Anderson (2016) *White Rage*. Bloomsbury. (Module 1)
- James Baldwin (1962) *The Fire Next Time*. Vintage. (Module 2)
- Gabriela Anzaldúa (2012) *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. Aunt Lute Books. (Module 3).
- Weekly supplemental readings and videos are also required.

## Course Activities & Assessments

### Activities Assessments

- Weekly Attendance = 10 % of total grade
- Weekly Learning Journal = 25 % of total grade (2 check-ins & 1 final submission)
- Reading Quizzes = 25 % of total grade (n = 12 quizzes)
- Media Matters Project = 20 % of total grade
- Final Project 20 % of total grade

## Grading

- A: 90-100% (Outstanding, excellent work. The student performs well above the minimum criteria.)
- B: 80-89% (Good, impressive work. The student performs above the minimum criteria.)
- C: 70-79% (Solid, college-level work. The student meets the criteria of the assignment.)
- D: 60-69% (Below average work. The student fails to meet the minimum criteria.)
- F: 59 and below (Sub-par work. The student fails to complete the assignment.)

Normally, we will return feedback on all written assignments within 1 week of the due date. However, if we see that we are unable to return your feedback that quickly we will post an Announcement to let everyone know when it can be expected.

## **Grade-related Policies**

### **Late Work**

Late work is not generally acceptable. However, if you are struggling to get an assignment submitted on time, please reach out to us to discuss options.

### **Turnaround Time**

We aim to return graded work to you within one week of the due date. When this is not possible, we will send an announcement to the class.

### **Extra Credit**

There are no extra credit opportunities in this course.

## **UNT Policies**

### **Important Academic Dates**

- [Registration Guides by Semester \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Online Academic Calendar \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Final Exam Schedule \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

## **Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences**

According to UNT Policy 06.003, [Student Academic Integrity \(Links to an external site.\)](#), 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.

## **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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#). 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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#) enforces the [Code of Student Conduct \(Links to an external site.\)](#). The Code explains what conduct is prohibited, the process the DOS uses to review reports of alleged misconduct by students, and 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. 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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#). You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

## **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 visit the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations \(Links to an external site.\)](#) website. 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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#) by telephone 940-565-2195 or email [internationaladvising@unt.edu](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

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Rev. 7/22/2016

## 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) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Visit [Title IX Student Information \(Links to an external site.\)](#) for more resources.

## Undocumented Students

Please see UNT'S [Resources for DACA Students \(Links to an external site.\)](#) web page for more information.

## Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called [Eagle Alert \(Links to an external site.\)](#) 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 Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

# Academic Support & Student Services

## Technology Support

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a [Student Help Desk \(Links to an external site.\)](#) that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues:

**Phone:** 940-565-2324

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

Current list of [Student Help Desk hours \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

For additional support, visit this [Canvas Technical Help \(Links to an external site.\)](#) web page.

## Academic Support Services

- The [UNT Academic Resource Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#), which provides links to the bookstore, registration and advising information, tuition information, financial aid, and more.
- The [UNT Academic Success Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#), which offers academic support services and free individual tutoring.
- [UNT Writing Lab \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [UNT MathLab \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

## Student Services

- [Multicultural Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Counseling and Testing Services \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Student Affairs Care Team \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Student Health and Wellness Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Pride Alliance \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Student Legal Services \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [UNT Food Pantry](#)