ENGLISH 1310: COLLEGE WRITING I

Fall 2026 | University of North Texas

FIRST YEAR WRITING University of North Texas	**Instructor: Stacy Short** **Class Times: T/TH - Lang 215 12:45-2:05 PM** **Section: 1310.034** **Email:** sshort@unt.edu **Office Hours: 2:45-3:45 T/TH** **Office Location: TBD – LANG (EMAIL to set appointment)**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The ENGL 1310 course serves as an entry point into the environment of academic inquiry and argument. Instruction in ENGL 1310 begins with an emphasis on cultivating writing through personal discovery, exploration, and reflection. Students learn about writing processes, explore genre conventions, and gain rhetorical knowledge while writing through their experiences and memories. With these more personal contexts as background, students are guided over the course of the semester towards becoming more comfortable with the conventions and habits of academic argument. The goals of ENGL 1310 include developing a working knowledge of writing processes, recognizing and using written genre conventions, and learning rhetoric for the purposes of analyzing and composing effective written texts. Students in ENGL 1310 fulfill these goals while engaging with nonfiction readings emphasizing narrative and description and focusing on issues of cultural significance.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Read texts critically and analyze the varied situations that motivate writers, the choices that writers make, and the effects of those choices on readers, including your own.
- Write persuasive arguments that articulate a clear, thoughtful position, deploy support and evidence appropriate to the audience and purpose, and consider counterclaims and multiple points of view, including international and intercultural perspectives.
- Evaluate sources and integrate the ideas of others into their writing (through paraphrase, summary, analysis, and evaluation).
- Identify and describe events from your experiences that give insight into larger cultural issues.
- Observe details that make other people, objects, or places unique within specific cultural or social groups.

- Analyze and evaluate specific concepts or texts that have significance within larger cultural conversations.
- Compare and rate your contributions as a team member to peer review and other team-based assignments.
- Reflect critically on the ways that social, cultural, and historical contexts shape perceptions of language, then make informed rhetorical choices about grammar, usage, and mechanics by using their linguistic repertoires to effectively reach personal, social, and political priorities in their writing.

CORE REQUIREMENTS

Catalog Description: 3 hours. Writing as discovery introduces essential concepts, knowledge, skills, methods, and conventions for writing. It focuses on practicing writing processes and developing rhetorical knowledge through analysis, observation, and self-reflection.
Prerequisite(s): None
CORE Category: Communication (English Composition and Rhetoric)
As ENGL 1310 meets one of your CORE Communication requirements. This course has four CORE skill objectives:

- Critical Thinking Skills | innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
- Communication Skills | effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
- Teamwork Skills| ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- Personal Responsibility Skills | ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

COURSE BOOKS & MATERIALS

- *Rhetorical Transformations: Making Meaning*—custom textbook provided as an OER and/or in hard copy. See Canvas for more details on accessing your custom course text. *This book is **free** digitally, but if you prefer a print copy, you can print it free in the UNT library, then take it to the on-campus printer to have it bound for $3.90.
- ***You will need to purchase an 8.5 x 11 college-rule spiral notebook for handwritten assignments & notes**. Computers or phones will only be used minimally for uploading classwork and proof of craft during class.*

You'll need a computer with internet access and know the basic skills necessary to:

- Use Outlook for UNT email
- Use Canvas
- Use Microsoft Word and PowerPoint

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Assignment		Due Date
Major Assignment 1 (MA1) |Reading Response Essay	10%	Wk 5 – 09/19_11:30pm
Major Assignment 2 (MA 2) | Narrative Essay	20%	Wk 8 – 10/10_11:30pm
Major Assignment 3 (MA 3) | Analysis Essay	20%	Wk 13 – 11/14_11:30pm
Major Assignment 4 (MA4) | Reimagining Your Audience	10%	Wk 16 – 12/03_11:30pm
Weekly Assignments and Activities • Low-stakes writing assignments that correlate to the week's readings, discussion, and lectures.	15%	Varies
Quizzes • Short quizzes over the assigned readings.	10%	Varies
Attendance	10%	Varies
Peer Review • There will be a required peer review for MA3	5%	Varies / Week 12

GRADING

GRADE	DESCRIPTION
A | 90-100	Exceeds the assignment's requirements. 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 most of the assignment's requirements. The number of errors does not impede the work's meaning. Shows high level of understanding of the concepts being taught. Skilled, revealing, developed, perceptive, but not unusually or surprisingly original.
C | 70-79	Meets most the assignment's requirements. The number of errors may impede the work's meaning. Shows some understanding of the concepts being taught. Coherent, significant, and perhaps even insightful in places but ultimately challenged in organization, articulation, and/or effectiveness.
D | 60-69	Does not meet most of the assignment's requirements. The number of errors does impede the work's meaning. Shows 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, underdeveloped, 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 impede the work's meaning. Shows no understanding of the concepts being taught.

NOV 6 - last day to drop course for any reason

All major assignments must be turned in on Canvas and processed through Turnitin to be eligible to pass this course.

I encourage you to monitor your score and review feedback posted on Canvas; However, Canvas's gradebook is not always accurate. Some grades, such as attendance, late penalties, or extra credit, are not incorporated until *after* the last time the class meets. If you are concerned about your grades, please set up a meeting so we can discuss them.

COMMUNICATION EXPECTATIONS

Feedback

I strive to return all graded work promptly. For shorter assignments and discussions, I will generally post grades/feedback within seven days of the due date. For the larger projects, I aim for fourteen days, but with the rise in cheating and plagiarism, it occasionally takes longer to finish grading a set of papers. If it has been longer than the times mentioned, please feel free to ask me when to expect the grades and feedback, but not before then.

Student Hours

You can walk into my office during my hours, but I encourage you to make an appointment to ensure you get time to meet with me. Feel free to use my office hours as often as you'd like to chat with me, review an assignment, or discuss any questions/concerns you have. It's been my experience that a quick conversation is the most effective way to resolve any confusion.

Email

I will respond to all official correspondence addressed to my UNT email in person or via email within three business days. All other communication methods—Canvas Messenger, assignment comments, personal emails, physical letters, etc.—*are unreliable* ways to contact me. I cannot guarantee that I will see your message on other platforms within any specific time frame, if ever.

Please check the syllabus and related assignment sheets before emailing me, and in your email, indicate where you looked for the information you are seeking before you emailed me. So that if something is unclear, I can fix it. Additionally, when you write to me, please include the subject of your email in the subject line and write your email with appropriate salutations and grammar. For a sample email, read this article, "How to Email Your Professor." Or, for a checklist on effective email communication between yourself and instructors, see https://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor.

It is your responsibility to check your UNT email during your 'business' hours each day to ensure you do not miss any time-sensitive information.

Public Writing

All submissions for this course, including but not limited to pre-writing, drafts, in-class assignments, and final projects, are public, i.e., any writing submitted for this course may be viewed by me or classmates. Do not submit any information that you are unwilling to share.

Syllabus Change Policy

I have made every attempt to provide an accurate syllabus for this course. However, if presently unanticipated circumstances arise that necessitate an amendment to the syllabus, advance notice will be given in writing via email of all changes, and I will provide an updated hard copy with the changes.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance Policy (UNT Policy 06.039)

Regular class attendance and participation are required. Excessive absences will affect your grade. Documented absences (e.g., religious holidays, university events) are automatically excused. Illness or undocumented absences are unexcused unless your instructor decides otherwise. Email your instructor within 24 hours of an absence for them to consider excusing it.

FYW Program Attendance Guidelines (2x/week class):

- 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.
- With every absence, your roll call grade will drop.
- Two tardies equal one absence.
- **At 7 unexcused absences, you cannot pass the course**.
- Excused absences are at your instructor's discretion—stay in communication.

Excused Absences

Absences for the following reasons are considered excusable by the university based on UNT policy 6.039, **but you must obtain a note from the Dean of Students (or other appropriate university offices) to verify your absence(s):** (1) religious holy day, including travel for that purpose; (2) participation in an official university function; (3) active military service, including travel for that purpose; (4) pregnancy and parenting under Title IX; and (6) when the University is officially closed. Please inform me of any planned absences with at least 10 days' notice to minimize any potential negative impact on your grades.

No other absences are eligible to be excused. 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.

If you miss a class:

You are responsible for finding out what you missed. ***Before* the next time our class meets, review the Canvas page** and any class lectures/notes. Take care of any work listed for the missed day before the next class or due dates, and/or ask a classmate for notes on what you missed. When you have done all these things, if you still need information or clarification, you can 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 an assignment:

Only assignments missed due to an excusable absence can be made up. For excused absences that resulted in missing in-class assignments, it is your responsibility to 1) turn in all necessary documentation regarding the absence and 2) *schedule* a time to make up the missing work *within two weeks of missing the assignment*. Since I must prepare the missing assignment, you cannot make up work as a walk-in during office hours.

LATE WORK

This course requires extensive reading and regular writing. To keep up with the course, you must complete all assignments by the date and time stated on Canvas. I will not accept late submissions of minor assignments or MA 3. A late MA 1 or MA 2 submission will be marked down half of a letter grade (from a 90 to an 85) **for every day that they are late**.

Note that unreadable documents, e.g., inaccessible, unopenable, partially complete, incorrect files, etc., will be considered as a non-submission and thus late if the deadline has passed. It is your responsibility to plan on submitting with ample time to check the submission quality and viewability of your submission on Canvas. Additionally, showing "last edited date" metadata does not qualify to remove the penalization based on any technological 'catastrophe' that impeded your submission.

Extensions

I will occasionally grant extensions for assignments if you request the extension at **least 24 hours before the deadline.** All requests must be sent via email and include 1) the specific assignment information in the subject and body, and 2) let me know the day and time you will turn in the assignment instead. No extensions will be granted for inherently collaborative assignments (peer review, in-class activities, etc.) in which your peers depend on your timely submission to progress in their work.

UNT POLICIES

Academic Integrity Standards

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Academic Integrity standards are violated when students engage in academic dishonesty behaviors, including, but not limited to, cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty and my decision on academic sanctions will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Plagiarism can include copying a passage from a source verbatim without citing it, but it can also include improper or misleading citations. Please note that all source material must be acknowledged, even if the material is paraphrased or sourced from generative AI technologies. Be careful always to acknowledge the work of other writers and take the time to work out the distinction between your original thoughts and arguments and those of others.

Additionally, the use of any 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 violates our syllabus and thus will be treated as an instance of cheating. 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.

Acceptable Student Behavior

According to UNT policy 07.012, 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

notified verbally or in writing and may be directed to leave the classroom. Additionally, the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct.

For additional information, refer to the Dean of Students website.

ADA Accommodations

According to UNT policy 16.001, UNT will make reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA). Then, the ODA will provide them with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty members detailing the students' accommodation needs. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours. Students may request reasonable accommodation at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 and meet with all faculty members prior to accommodation implementation every semester.

For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website.

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.

For additional information, refer to the Eagle Alert website.

UNT RESOURCES

Technical Assistance:

Information Technology Help Desk | University of North Texas
Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Phone: 940-565-2324
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Writing Assistance:

Writing Center | University of North Texas
Email:WritingCenter@unt.edu
Phone: 940-565-2563
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 150

English 1310 Weekly Schedule | Fall 2026

*This schedule is subject to change at your instructor's discretion. Always check the "announcements" in Canvas for any changes.

WEEK	READINGS	ACTIVITIES	ASSIGNMENTS
		UNIT 1	
Week 1 Aug 17		Understanding the Course Expectations	Quiz | Course Policies
Week 2 Aug 24	CH 1 | Reading & Writing Rhetorically		1. CH1 1 QUIZ AND/OR RDG 2. DISCUSSION POST
Week 3 Aug 31	CH 2 | The Rhetorical Situation		1. CH1 2 QUIZ AND/OR RDG 2. DISCUSSION POST
Week 4 Sept 7	CH 7 | Exploring the Course Theme		1. CH1 7 QUIZ AND/OR RDG 2. DISCUSSION POST
Week 5 Sept 14			**MA 1 | 5 paragraph essay** DUE – 09/19_11:30pm
		UNIT 2	
Week 6 Sept 21	CH 3 | The Writing Process		1. CH1 3 QUIZ AND/OR RDG 2. DISCUSSION POST
Week 7 Sept 28	CH 4 | Why We Write & How We Organize		1. CH1 4 QUIZ AND/OR RDG 2. DISCUSSION POST
Week 8 Oct 5			**MA2 | Narrative Essay** **DUE:** 10/10_11:30pm
		UNIT 3	
Week 9 Oct 12	CH 5 | Every Argument Needs Evidence		1. CH1 5 QUIZ AND/OR RDG 2. DISCUSSION POST
Week 10 Oct 19	CH 6 | Beginnings, Middles, and Ends		1. CH1 6 QUIZ AND/OR RDG 2. DISCUSSION POST
Week 11 Oct 26		Schedule Peer Review partnerships & Students exchange group meeting times and/or online zoom meets for writing reviews (prep for week of Nov. 2)	IN-CLASS – tba uploads for credit/participation **First draft of MA 3**
Week 12 Nov 2		Peer Review Activities - PEER REVIEWS AND/OR WRITING LAB/CONFERENCES - TBA	IN-CLASS – tba uploads for credit/participation **Peer Review of MA 3**
Week 13 Nov 9			**MA 3 | Analysis essay final draft** **DUE:** 11/14_11:30pm
Week 14 Nov 16		Introduce final project	**IN-CLASS – tba uploads for credit/participation**
Week 15 Nov 23		**FALL BREAK: NO CLASS**	
Week 16 Nov 30			**MA 4 | Final projects** **DUE:** 12/03_11:30pm **OPTION: 12/01 & 12/03 IN CLASS (optional in class presentations)**
FINALS Dec 7-11			**NO IN-CLASS MEETING OR EXAMS**