**Course:** ENGL 1310.704 (AHS Dual Credit, 4th years)  
**Instructor:** Shari M. Childers, Ph.D.  
**E-mail:** shari.childers@unt.edu  
**Web page:** Blackboard for this course (learn.unt.edu)  
**Ofc. Hours:** Usually Fri/Mon prior to Tuesday due dates

### Course Description:

The First-Year Writing Program at the University of North Texas studies and practices writing as a complex activity that is defined not only by material processes, historical forms, and conventional grammars, but also by acts of discovering, exploring, and listening to the world around us. Learners in our program have a stake in shaping the world through writing, and our job is to aid them in that process. Our courses prepare learners to intervene in a variety of communities, including both academic and nonacademic contexts. Through our curriculum, learners learn to use a wide repertoire of styles, forms, and conventions in order to engage most effectively with diverse audiences. Strong habits of rhetorical analysis and production are developed in a number of effective classroom practices, including collaboration, discussion, reflection, and, of course, frequent opportunities to write and revise. Overall, we invite learners to question what they know about writing: this process of questioning includes exploring new forms, processes, and contexts for writing that are evolving constantly around us. By the time learners have completed the courses in the First-Year Writing sequence, they will be prepared for the demands of writing that they encounter in their future academic studies and professional lives.

### Required Materials

Learners will need consistent, reliable access to our online course materials in Blackboard. All major essay assignments are also submitted via Blackboard.

### Success in This Course

Please carefully consider the following suggestions:

- **Read ALL of the materials on Blackboard, particularly RUBRICS:** These resources outline every facet of our course expectations. If you are stuck, you may want to start getting unstuck by asking questions rooted here.
- **Consider ways to engage with the subject that will benefit you:** Your **Investment Log** is designed to encourage this. What can you do that might improve your grammar/rhetoric/writing skills? Online writing center visits? Okay. Let’s give you some credit for that!
- **Complete ALL essays and the final portfolio assignment.** Failure to submit a **COMPLETE PORTFOLIO** will result in failure of this course.
- **Stay informed about course information by engaging with peers through Blackboard and by reading emails and announcements on a regular basis**
- **Communicate with instructor early and often—and not only when you’re struggling!**
- **Find ways to make assignments relevant or interesting for you.** This is always the responsibility (and privilege) of the learner.

### Grading

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

- 10% Argument Description
- 10% Investment Log
- 10% Collaborative Interview
- 20% Argumentative Analysis
- 20% Argument Revision
- 30% Final Portfolio

*Nothing in this assignment sequence is considered optional: failure to submit and acceptable attempt for any major assignment** will result in failure of this course.*

(A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 59 & below)

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**Required Texts**


ISBN: 9781319092122

(We will manage without physical copies this year)
General Policies for Learners in College Writing I

General policies for learners in College Writing I are determined at the department level. Our online Blackboard content includes a link in the left-hand menu to “University Policies,” and you will find a link there to these “general policies,” including classroom behavior, plagiarism, absences, and disability services information.

More Specifics for Learners in dual credit College Writing I

Course Schedule

This is NOT a self-paced course. This course is divided into units. Each unit culminates in an argument essay that learners must complete over a given period of time. As such, assignments will have due dates, and learners must complete assignments on time if they expect credit for assignments. Organization and discipline are extremely important for success.

Services Available for Additional Help

A common misconception is that courses managed primarily online are “easier”—please do not fall prey to this incorrect assumption. Particularly in a composition course, being an online learner (here, a dual credit learner accessing the university portion of the coursework online) means that you have accepted the responsibility to complete all of the assignments and get the help you need when and if you need it, according to your own schedule, but prior to all due dates. Please be aware of the following services available to help you:

- The UNT Writing Lab: Qualified tutors will work with you one-on-one to improve your writing and overall performance on a given assignment, either in person or via electronic submission. SAGE 152/ 940-565-2563.
- The UNT Helpdesk: For all technology issues! SAGE 130/ 940-565-2324/ helpdesk@unt.edu.
- The UNT Library/Librarians: an excellent source for all research needs. www.library.unt.edu/ask-us
- My office hours: I am available both in person and always by email; remember that I am a real person!

Course Communication

Because this is a dual credit class, most communication will take place online. It is the responsibility of the learner to regularly check email and the announcements in Blackboard.

Understanding this Rhetorical Context

Remember that this is a composition course; I am assessing your facility with written communication, including the length, substantive nature, and mechanics of all work submitted. As such, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- **Do not** share information of a sensitive nature unless you want to. I cannot guarantee privacy.
- **Do not** use inappropriate language for a classroom.
- **Do not** use inflammatory or prejudicial language.
- **Do not** post in all caps. (Oh the irony... ;)
- **Do not** use text messaging abbreviations.
- **Do use** grammar and punctuation conventions appropriate for Standard Written English.
- **Do write** in complete sentences.

Written Work/Essays

All papers, essays, posts, and emails should illustrate and appropriate level of critical thinking, relevance, independent thought, intellectual curiosity, and academic integrity. Essays will be submitted in accordance with **standard MLA guidelines** for formatting and documentation. Major essays will be submitted using Turnitin through Blackboard.

I **WILL NOT GRADE ESSAYS** that do not meet the following, most basic guidelines:

- Submit all essays using Turnitin through Blackboard and a proper file extension, unless otherwise directed. The portfolio is the exception—**follow guidelines provided for submitting a professional hard copy**.
- Have an original title. This is something relevant, concise, and appropriate. It is not the title of a short story or poem that you did not write.
- Use MLA format: Use 12-point Times New Roman, with all one-inch (1”) margins all around, and no cover sheet. See The Purdue OWL website (link is on Blackboard) for an excellent example.
- Double space throughout—even the Work Cited page.

Again, **I WILL NOT GRADE ESSAYS** that do not meet these criteria.
TROUBLESHOOTING/FAQ:

What if I need to drop the course?
Contact your instructor first. Many learners are surprised to find that they can still pass the course if they can locate the right help/services. Also, the State of Texas has a “Six Drop Rule,” which only allows students to drop a maximum of six courses during their undergraduate academic career, so consider your options carefully before deciding to drop a course.

It is the learner’s responsibility to drop the course if he/she plans to discontinue the coursework. Speak with your instructor to get and complete the required forms in accordance with published university deadlines. If you remain on the class roster and have not completed the coursework, you will receive an “F.”

How can I keep up with my work?
Some learners misjudge the nature of the investment required to complete university-level coursework. Do your best to avoid this mistake. Get involved from day one:

- Add assignment due dates to a calendar you use often
- Make a schedule and complete work EARLY to allow time for feedback and revisions
- Talk to your instructor and classmates often

What if I fall behind in my work? or I’m unhappy with my grades?
Contact your instructor as soon as you are concerned. This will increase the likelihood of a positive outcome. S/he will help you honestly assess your situation and consider the options. You might also:

- Reread “suggestions for success” on this syllabus, Pg1.
- Speak with your classmates—you will find that peers can offer great advice. Writing is not a solitary activity.
- Go to the UNT Writing Lab—having a qualified tutor look over your work (FOR FREE) before submitting assignments can be an excellent way to improve your grades.

What if Turnitin isn’t working?
Difficulty submitting through Turnitin will NOT BE CONSIDERED AS AN ACCEPTABLE REASON for not completing course activities according to the schedule. In the event that you find yourself in this situation, please EMAIL me directly, and attach a copy of your completed assignment to that email. This will allow us both to deal with the Turnitin issue with no concern about whether the assignment was completed on time.

What if my computer crashes?
Not having a working computer or a crashed computer will NOT BE CONSIDERED AS AN ACCEPTABLE REASON for not completing course activities according to the schedule. It is the responsibility of the learner to identify in advance a second computer that can be used in the event that your computer crashes. Computers are available for public use at libraries, the university, internet cafes, and any FedEx location, among others. Regularly backup your work to a memory stick, free Dropbox account, or other online tool so that it is not lost.

What if Blackboard is down?
Blackboard is down weekly for routine maintenance. Please be aware of this weekly outage so that you do not unintentionally put off an assignment, expecting to access the system at that time. In the event that Blackboard experiences an unforeseen outage that threatens to disrupt coursework or a scheduled due date, I will post an announcement detailing what changes, if any, have been made to the requirements and deadlines.

What if I submit something and it disappears into cyberspace?
It is the learner’s responsibility to keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external memory drive and/or personal computer. In the event of any kind of failure or any contradictions/problems, I may request that you resubmit the files. In other words, if I do not receive a file or it is corrupted when I open it, it is incumbent upon you to resend it to me with little or no “downtime” or wait.

What if I am having trouble with technology?
If you experience technological problems of any kind during the semester, don’t wait until you are hopelessly behind to seek help. Particularly if this is the first time that you are taking a university course with an online component, don’t wait until the last minute to submit your assignments.

If you are still experiencing problems, contact the student Helpdesk: Helpdesk@unt.edu /SAGE 130/ 940-565-2324. There is more information in greater detail in our online course.

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Course Schedule:
➢ Schedule is always a provisional document and may change; track announcements closely!
➢ All assignments are due on the dates listed below
➢ All assignments due online are due at 11:59pm.

October
INTRODUCTION TO COURSE
➢ Oct 3: enrollment date at AHS
➢ Oct 11: intro assignment due

November
UNIT 1: ARGUMENT DESCRIPTION
➢ Nov 1: Argument Description DUE

December
➢ Dec 1: Final decision, pay for UNT courses

January
UNIT 2: ARGUMENT ANALYSIS
➢ Jan 13: on-campus office hours scheduled
➢ Jan 17: Argument Analysis DUE

February
UNIT 3: ARGUMENT REVISION
➢ Feb 3: on-campus office hours scheduled
➢ Feb 7: Argument Revision DUE
UNIT 4: COLLABORATIVE INTERVIEW
➢ Feb 24: on-campus office hours scheduled
➢ Feb 28: Collaborative Interview DUE; discussion board closes

UNT Spring Break (March 13-19)

April
➢ Apr 28: Investment Logs DUE

May
UNIT 5: FINAL PORTFOLIO
➢ May 5/8: on-campus office hours scheduled
➢ May 9: Final Portfolio DUE (Finals week, UNT)
➢ May 15: Final grades posted for UNT learners