

ENGLISH 1320: COLLEGE WRITING II

Spring 2026| University of North Texas



Instructor: Samantha Sorenson

Class Times: T/R 11:10-12:30PM

Email: samantha.sorenson@unt.edu

Office Hours: M/W 2:30-3:30PM @ GAB 515, desk 4

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In ENGL 1320, you will be introduced to reading strategies, modes of inquiry, and writing approaches that will help you thrive as writers in a university setting and beyond. With an emphasis on brainstorming, critical reading, analysis, and revision, you will gain rhetorical knowledge and develop a framework for producing persuasive writing about issues that are important to you. One of the broadest goals of this course is to help you become comfortable with strategies for making your writing compelling to audiences who can mediate meaningful change. We will explore various methods that provide insight into topics you want to share with other people. Overall, ENGL 1320 will prepare you for a wide range of writing expectations, including those that demand research, evidence, and careful argument.

ENGL 1320 is organized around one sustained research project. Rather than completing a series of unrelated essays, you will develop a research question, investigate an ongoing conversation, construct a researched argument, revise that argument in response to readers, and finally adapt it for a new audience and purpose.

COURSE MATERIALS

- *Rhetorical Transformations: Complex Conversations*—custom textbook provided as an OER. See Canvas for more details on accessing the textbook.
- Additional materials will be provided as a printed handout or a link/PDF in Canvas.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

- Hone and develop reading, writing, and research skills through practice, repetition, and careful attention to style and strategy
- Develop a relevant research question
- Locate and analyze academic sources to use as evidence
- Synthesize sources into a larger analytical argument
- Draft and revise a research paper that is appropriate to academic audiences

- Collaborate with peers and provide useful feedback

CORE REQUIREMENTS

As ENGL 1320 meets one of your CORE Communication requirements. This course has four CORE skill objectives:

- **Critical Thinking** | The written activity explains insights that the writer has gained through careful consideration of the research and reading done in the course. The writer coherently represents the complexity and nuance of the ideas they are writing about.
- **Clarity of Communication** | The written activity shows that the writer understands the course material and has read widely enough to help audiences understand the significance of the idea they are writing about. The background context and the question the writer is addressing are both coherent and thorough enough.
- **Organization and Structure** | The written activity is clearly organized with a structure that allows audiences to understand its main point as well as the supporting examples and sources that contribute to the main point.
- **Consideration of Other Perspectives** | The written activity demonstrates careful listening to course ideas, course texts, and to consider other perspectives related to the topic the writer is addressing. The writer considers the cultural and social implications of their topic and argument.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS & SKILLS

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	Weight	Due Date
Major Assignment 1 (MA1) Choosing a Topic • This unit focuses on understanding rhetorical conversations and formulating a specific research question to facilitate your entrance into the conversation. You will draft a research proposal at the end of this unit.	10%	Sunday, September 6 th by 11:59PM
Major Assignment 2 (MA 2) Annotated Bibliography • This unit focuses on defining the context for the issue you have chosen and locating credible sources that offer a perspective on the issue. You will draft an annotated bibliography at the end of this unit.	15%	Sunday, September 27 th by 11:59PM
Major Assignment 3 (MA 3) Drafting the Research Essay • In this unit, you will plan and write a clear, focused, and well-researched essay that addresses the issue you have chosen to	20%	Sunday, October 25 th by 11:59PM

write about. You will submit both a rough draft and participate in peer review during this unit.		
Major Assignment 4 (MA 4) Revised Draft In this unit, you will learn about how to work a paper from a rough draft into a revised draft. You will polish your draft from unit 3 for this assignment.	15%	Sunday, November 15th by 11:59PM
Major Assignment 5 (MA 5) Remixing your Research Project This final unit focuses on the activity of "remixing" writing through changes to the audience, purpose, and context. You will translate your research argument into an artifact or project that you will present to the class in our final week.	10%	Tuesday, December 1 st & Thursday, December 3 rd In class
Reading Quizzes	10%	Varies
Rush Write Notebook	10%	Varies
Attendance	10%	Varies

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.

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

Extra credit is occasionally offered in this course, based on the learning needs of students in the section. However, extra credit is only available as a class-wide opportunity, and will not be made available on an individual basis. If extra credit is made available, it will not be incorporated into

your Canvas grade 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.

COURSE POLICIES

Communication

The best way to contact me is via my university email (samantha.sorenson@unt.edu). You can expect a response from me within 24-48 hours during the business-as-usual work week. As a standard practice, I do not respond in the late evening, over the weekend, or on university breaks/holidays. What this means: if you email me late on Friday, the earliest you should expect a response from me will be Monday morning, as it is likely that I will not see your email until Monday rolls around. I encourage you to email me according to your own schedule and with any questions you have related to the course. I also encourage you to utilize my student office hours. It's been my experience that a quick conversation is the most effective way to resolve any confusion.

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. When I need to communicate with you I will do so either by emailing your UNT email directly, or sending a class-wide announcement.

NOTE: I do not check my Canvas inbox and you will likely not get a response from me if you use that method of communication.

Feedback

We will utilize rubrics in this course, but I will also leave comments on your work. For shorter assignments and discussions, I generally post feedback within seven days of the due date. For the larger projects, I aim for fourteen days, but it occasionally takes longer to finish grading a set of papers, especially if I run into any academic integrity issues. If it has been longer than the times mentioned, please feel free to reach out and inquire about an updated timeline.

Public Writing

All submissions for this course, including but not limited to pre-writing, drafts, in-class assignments, and final projects, are public, which means 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 changes do need to be made, I will send out a Canvas announcement detailing the adjustments.

Attendance

Attendance Policy ([UNT Policy 06.039](#))

Regular class attendance and participation are required, and I will begin each class session by taking attendance. To accommodate circumstances out of your control, and eliminate the awkward game of emailing me trying to convince me that your absence is worth an exception, you will be granted two excused absences for the semester, no questions asked. Documented absences communicated through the Dean of Students' office (see "Excused Absences" section below) are automatically excused. Any absences beyond these two or documented through the Dean of Students' office, including illness, are considered unexcused. Every unexcused absence will negatively impact your grade in the course.

- Per university policy, missing more than 20% of classes results in automatic failure, regardless of assignment grades.
- Two tardies equal one absence. You will be marked "tardy" if you show up more than 5 minutes after our scheduled meeting time and/or if you leave class early.
- At 7 unexcused absences, you cannot pass the course.

NOTE: 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 ask a classmate for notes on what you missed, or make an appointment to meet with me during office hours.

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 (5) 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 grade.

If you experience 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.

Late Work/Extensions

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 follow these policies when deciding whether to accept late work:

- All assignments are due by the date specified in Canvas.
- Smaller process assignments such as reading quizzes will not be accepted late. No exceptions.
- If you need extra time on a major assignment (Proposal, Annotated Bibliography, First Draft, Revised Draft, Remix), you must request your extension at least 24-hours before the assignment is due.

- Peer Review drafts and peer review responses will not be accepted late. No exceptions.
- I will deduct 5 points for each day (not business day) your work is late.
- No late work will be accepted over 3 days (72 hours) late.
- It is your responsibility to reach out to me to discuss late work/extensions. I will not chase you down; I will just implement these policies and move on.

NOTE: Unreadable documents, e.g., inaccessible, unopenable, incorrect file types, etc., will be considered as a non-submission and thus late if the deadline has passed. Additionally, showing “last edited date” metadata does not qualify to remove the penalization based on any technological ‘catastrophe’ that impeded your submission.

AI Policy

The use of generative AI tools, including ChatGPT and Grammarly, is permitted in this course for students who wish to use them as writing partners. Students may choose to use AI tools to help brainstorm writing assignments or to receive feedback on existing work they have written (please use a course approved prompt when asking for feedback). Students may also use the paid AI service SCOPUS available through the UNT library when conducting research. However, in all cases, to adhere to scholarly values and maintain the standards of academic integrity, [students must cite any AI-generated material](#) that informed their work according to the guidelines provided by the university (see link). Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution qualifies as plagiarism.

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.

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.

Academic Freedom & Responsibility

UNT has a robust policy regarding academic freedom and academic responsibility. Crucially, this policy encompasses not only the rights of faculty members but also the rights “of the student to freedom in learning.” As a student in this classroom, therefore, you have the right to encounter and debate new ideas, diverse forms of knowledge, and unfamiliar or contrary points of view. According to UNT policy, “it is not the proper role of the University to attempt to shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive.” At the same time, to encourage the free exchange of ideas, and to ensure that your right to learn is protected, the tone for such discussion must always be civil and respectful; hateful or discriminatory speech will not be tolerated. For more information, please consult the full UNT policy at <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-035>[Links to an external site.](#)

Audio/Video Recording

Although UNT is a publicly supported institution, our classroom is not a public space. Therefore, to protect the intellectual property and privacy rights of both faculty and students, video and audio recordings are prohibited during class. The exception is for students who have been granted explicit approval as an ODA accommodation. For more information, please consult the full UNT policy at [this link](#).

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 1320 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	Course Syllabus CHAPTER 1 Rhetorical Thinking for the Research Process	Course Introduction and Syllabus Overview Establish a Classroom Community The Rhetorical Situation	Chapter 1 Reading Quiz
Week 2	"To Find Happiness..." "Have We Turned Personality into Diagnosis?"	Understanding MA 1 Exploring Course Theme	
Week 3	CHAPTER 2 Research and Inquiry	Time in-class for proposal drafting Look at the sample proposal	Chapter 2 Reading Quiz MA 1 Research Paper Proposal
UNIT 2			
Week 4	CHAPTER 3 Gathering and Evaluating Sources	Understanding MA 2 Finding reliable sources and media literacy Logical fallacies Bias	Chapter 3 Reading Quiz
Week 5	Read through sources	Library tutorial day: how to use UNT's library database to find sources Begin finding reliable sources	
Week 6	Read through sources MLA Citation Guide	How to read and annotate articles MLA Citations Finish reading all sources, work on annotations	MA 2 Annotated Bibliography
UNIT 3			
Week 7		What Is an Argument? Argument Structures/outlining	
Week 8	CHAPTER 4 Building Arguments	Discuss drafting as a process using	Chapter 4 Reading Quiz

		Draft Lead in and thesis Understanding analysis/my role in the conversation	
Week 9		Individual Conferences	
Week 10	Review Chapter 4	Transitions as movement College-level conclusions Peer Review Preparation	First Draft of Research Paper Due
Week 11		Peer Review	Peer Review
UNIT 4			
Week 12	CHAPTER 5 Revision, Remixing, and Collaboration	Discuss why revision matters Begin global revision guided workshops	Chapter 5 reading quiz
Week 13		Work through the revision process Guided style/editorial workshops	Revised Research Paper
UNIT 5			
Week 14	CHAPTER 6 Presenting Your Ideas	Understanding MA 5 Remixing for a new audience Multimodal arguments	Chapter 6 Reading Quiz
Week 15		FALL BREAK: NO CLASSES	
Week 16		In-class presentations of the remixed final project	Final Remixing Research Projects
FINALS WEEK		No scheduled in-person final	