HNRS 1000: Honors First-Year Experience

Fall 2026

Class Meetings

Section 008
Mondays, 10:10 AM – 11:00 AM
Language 202

Instructor

Zach Yeager
Office: Sycamore 205
Phone: 940-565-2051
Email: Zach.Yeager@unt.edu
Office Hours: E-mail to schedule with Zach

Peer Instructors

Tarrique Armstrong (TarriqueArmstrong@my.unt.edu)
Livia Hyden (LiviaHyden@my.unt.edu)

Communication Expectations & Office Hours

If there is information that I need to send out to the class outside of classroom time, a Canvas announcement will be sent out. Be sure to check Canvas regularly to ensure you receive all course-related information. If you need to get in contact with me outside of classroom hours, please e-mail me at Zach.Yeager@unt.edu. Do not use the built-in Canvas messaging as I don't check that as regularly. Before messaging the instructor with course questions, please check the course materials (the syllabus and Canvas). I will reply to messages within 48 hours of receipt during the week; please do not expect responses over the weekend. I hope the class becomes a source of community for all of you. Please seek help from your classmates if you need it and offer help to your classmates if you can.

My weekly schedule fluctuates with meetings, so if you would like to meet with me for office hours, please e-mail me and we can coordinate a time.

Course Description

HNRS 1000 is a one-credit-hour course for entering Honors College students. The course serves as a gateway—both professional and personal, academic and extracurricular—to the opportunities that await members of the UNT Honors College community. The course is designed to promote greater self-awareness and to help students understand themselves as scholars, individuals, and global citizens. Students will investigate their college experiences holistically. Reflective exercises and discussions encourage students to explore their academic strengths and to chart a path in the Honors College that is informed by their personal values and goals.

Course Objectives

Students who complete the course will be able to:

1. Articulate academic identity, cultivate passion, and establish goals within an Honors College framework.
2. Demonstrate familiarity with resources and strategies to support academic, professional, and personal development.
3. Integrate Honors College academic and extracurricular opportunities into their undergraduate experience.
4. Engage in practices that cultivate care, belonging, and wellness as an active member of the Honors College community.

Materials

You do not need to purchase any materials for this course.

Grading, Requirements, and Expectations

Assignments & Grading

Students may earn a total of 300 points in the course. Individual assignments range in value from 5-50 points. Assignment descriptions are posted in Canvas.

Final grades will be assigned on the following basis:

A	270-300 points
B	240-269 points
C	210-239 points
D	180-209 points
F	<180 points

Late Assignments

Assignments are due by the times listed in the syllabus; assignments are typically due at 11:59 p.m. the evening before class, unless specified otherwise. Assignments turned in late but within 48 hours of the initial deadline may be penalized 10% of their value. Assignments turned in between 48 and 96 hours late may be penalized 20% of their value. Assignments will not be accepted more than 96 hours after the original due dates, unless at the instructor's discretion.

Turnaround Time

I aim to return graded work to you within two weeks of its due date. When this is not possible, I will send an announcement to the class.

Grade Disputes

You must wait 24 hours after receiving a grade before contacting me to dispute it. In that time, I expect you to review the assignment details and reflect on the quality of your work. If, upon reflection, you believe the assigned grade does not reflect the quality of your work, use my bookings link to set up a meeting. We will not discuss grades over email. You should come to our scheduled meeting with specific examples that demonstrate why, in your opinion, you should have received a higher grade than the one assigned. If you miss a scheduled grade dispute meeting, you forfeit your right to a grade reconsideration. If you do not contact me to schedule a meeting within 7 days of receiving your grade, you forfeit your right to reconsideration.

Extra Credit

Extra credit (5 points) will be awarded to each member of the class ***if*** 80% of the section completes the SPOT Evaluation for the class by the time the evaluation closes. Extra credit will also be awarded for an Honors Plan of Study (10 points) that contains notes from an Honors Academic Advisor. See Canvas for more details.

Formatting

When applicable, each written/essay assignment requires consistent formatting:

- Name/Date/Class at top of page
- 12- or 11-point font
- Standard font, as approved by MLA or APA
- Proper spelling/grammar

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use "I" statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individuals' experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people's ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as "YELLING!"
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts, as tone can be difficult to interpret.
- Avoid using "text-talk."
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

Relevant UNT Policies

Course Evaluation: Student Perceptions of Teaching Effectiveness

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course.

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. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct to learn more.

Academic Integrity Expectations and Consequences

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, 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.

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodations 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 initiate a private discussion of the student's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early in the semester as possible to avoid delays 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.

Attendance

This class is centered around in-class activities and discussions; attendance and active participation are expected. Semester attendance is worth 70 points in total, with each of the 15 classes attended worth 5 points. There is an

opportunity to earn 5 extra points for complete attendance. **If you are more than 10 minutes late (without approved excuse) you may forfeit your attendance points for that class meeting.**

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and comply with the course's attendance policy. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and the instructional

Course Schedule

Week 1: Course Overview and Introduction – August 17

Week 2: Setting Your Foundation – August 24

- Sharing Personal Values – in class activity
- Complete Personal Values Inventory (before class)
- Introduction to the Who Are You? assignment

Week 3: Sharing Your Foundation – August 31

- Who Are You? Presentation (20 points)
- Who Are You? Creative Artifact/Project (25 points)

NO CLASS – LABOR DAY

Week 4: Building Blocks for Civil Discourse – September 14

- Connect with your Peer Instructor assignment (10 points)
- Who Are You? Process Paper (15 points)
- Before class, read/watch content posted on Canvas.

Week 5: Civil Discourse in Action – September 21

- Before class, read/watch content posted on Canvas.

Week 6: Academic Planning & Group Advising, with Honors Advising – September 28

- Honors Academics Presentation (watch/listen before class)
- Academic planning quiz (10 points)

Week 7: Finding Your Place – October 5

- Before class complete career research activity and discussion board post (10 points)

Week 8: Me & UNT, *Outside of the Classroom activity* – October 12

- Me & UNT assignment and discussion board post (30 points)
- No class meeting – outside of class activity

Week 9: Large Group Seminars, *Outside of the Classroom Activity* – October 19

Week 10: “I Give Five Stars” Project Intro – October 26

- Introduction to "I Give Five Stars” Project assignment

Week 11: Utilizing the Library, with the Honors College Librarian – November 2

- Upload "I Give Five Stars" topic submission (10 points)
- Meet in Willis Library for class

Week 12: Presentation Practice – November 9

- Come to class with your “I Give Five Stars” paper/presentation outline

Week 13: "I Give Five Stars” Presentations – November 16

- Presentations for “I Give Five Stars” projects
- Upload “I Give Five Stars” paper (50 points)

NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 14: "I Give Five Stars” Presentations – November 30

- Presentations for “I Give Five Stars” projects

Week 15: Finals Week: Wrap-Up and Debrief

Adhering to Exam Week Schedule, we will meet Wednesday, December 9 from 8-10 AM. Meet at 9 AM.

- Final reflection in-class discussion (20 points)

Assignment ***Further instructions & due dates on Canvas****	**Points**
Attendance	70
Who Are You? Creative Artifact/Project	25
Who Are You? Presentation	20
Who Are You? Process Paper	15
Academic Planning Quiz	15
Connect with your Peer Instructor	10
Me & UNT Discussion Post	30
"I Give Five Stars” Project Topic Submission	10
Presentation Practice Attendance	10
"I Give Five Stars” Project Paper	40
"I Give Five Stars” Project Presentation	35
Final Reflection – In-Class Discussion Activity	20
*Honors Plan of Study **Extra Credit** Opportunity*	*10*
*SPOT Evaluation **Extra Credit** Opportunity*	*5*
TOTAL:	**315/300**