

# INTERMEDIATE COMPOSITION

ENGLISH 2120-502

CRN: 64626

Fall 2020 • 3 credit hours

8/17/20-12/6/20

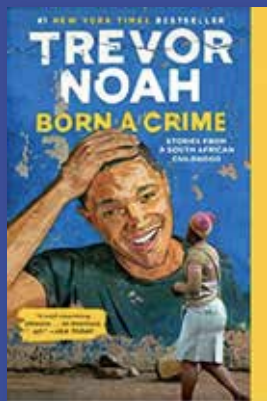
ONLINE

Assistant Professor Ana N. June  
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Zoom office hours: R&F 1-3 pm

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

Available at the campus bookstore



*Born a Crime*,  
by Trevor Noah  
One World, 2019.

ISBN-13: 978-0399588198



*Notes from No  
Man's Land:  
American Essays*,  
by Eula Biss  
Graywolf Press,  
2009.

ISBN-13: 978-1555975180

You also need reliable computer and internet access. You will complete all of your assignments in Word and turned in through assignment portals on Blackboard Learn. Please talk to me as soon as possible if you anticipate having trouble accessing any of the required resources.

## Welcome, fellow writer!

You've arrived at English 2120, and I'm so excited to work with you this semester! Intermediate Composition is one of my favorite classes to teach in part because we can have deeper conversations about important subjects, and explore writing in new and different ways.

This class is different from freshman composition in that it's based on a theme. This semester we will be exploring the theme of story—what story is, how people tell their own stories and the stories of others, and how important story is to everyone, regardless of who they are or where they come from. It's a broad theme within which I encourage you to explore and define your own interests. You will tell your story and/or that of someone else. You will think about realities different from your own. And you will write. A lot.

This semester you will read Trevor Noah's memoir *Born a Crime*, as well as selected essays from Eula Biss' *Notes from No Man's Land* in addition to essays, news items, and other interesting pieces. Sometimes you'll watch a video or other multimodal piece. We will discuss your reading during weekly Zoom sessions or in a Slack discussion board, depending on your schedule, and you will keep a journal. You will also write three major essays and complete a Capstone project. This is not an easy class, but I am determined that it will be accessible to anyone who puts forth the effort required to learn. That is my promise to you. I am not looking for perfect writing (is there even such a thing??); I am looking for your effort, willingness, and curiosity.

Story turns the wheels of society. We all have stories to hear and stories to tell. Let's get to it.

I am very happy you're here!

Best,

*Ana N. June*

Assistant Professor of English  
UNM-Valencia campus

## CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course builds upon and refines the writing skills acquired in previous writing courses, with a focus on non-fiction prose. Research, composition, exposition and presentation abilities will be practiced and developed. Through analysis and revision,

students will develop strategies to improve the versatility and impact of their writing. Course topics and emphases may vary by section.

Meets New Mexico Lower-Division General Education Common Core Curriculum Area I: Communications. Prerequisite: 1120 or ACT English =>29 or SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing =>700.

## ENG 2120 Class Structure

The structure of this class is relatively simple: Every week you can expect to **read, reflect, respond, and write** (I'd call 'em the four R's but that's not totally accurate, lol). Everything you do for the next 14 weeks will prepare you for your Capstone, due at the end of the 16th week.

## Read, Reflect, Respond, Write

A typical week will start with an intro video and possibly a lesson on some aspect of writing. You will have an assigned reading from one of the books or an article/story/news piece I find. I sometimes assign videos instead. You will reflect in your Journal and also discuss the reading as well as writing techniques either on Zoom with me and your classmates or in a discussion channel on Slack. I'm hoping Slack works well for this purpose—I'm not a fan of Blackboard's discussion boards, and Slack feels much more professional. You'll also write (yes, you'll write more than just a Journal entry a week). These writing assignments, which you will turn in each week through an assignment portal, will usually be designed to connect to the Capstone in some way.

## Capstone Essays

Your Capstone will be three essays plus a detailed reflection on your experience in the course. If you keep up with the weekly assignments, you will be more than ready for the Capstone.

You will have several options to choose from for your Capstone. Among them: rhetorical analysis, literary analysis, personal essay, profile, visual essay, and/or a craft paper. You will be expected to develop one of your essays using research processes, and your Capstone must include a lengthy reflection.

Sometimes many choices can be paralyzing, but I will be here to guide you along the way. I anticipate that no two Capstones will be exactly alike, and that's an exciting prospect.

# GET TO KNOW THE SLOS: ENG 2120 STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Throughout the semester in English 2120, students will progress toward the following student learning outcomes:

1. Students will use a variety of writing styles and sets of conventions to compose documents for academic, business, technical, scientific, popular publishing or professional settings.
2. Students will analyze the subjects, purposes, audiences, and constraints that influence and determine document creation.
3. Students will develop research strategies for writing, gathering information from primary and secondary sources.
4. Students will use appropriate documentation and document design in writing.
5. Students will describe and evaluate rhetorical choices.

## DON'T PANIC! JUST WRITE!

Final grades are determined using a traditional percentage system, with the appropriate plus or minus sign. To pass this course, students must earn a final grade of C (73%) or higher.

Score	Grade
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
0-59	F

### Total Points Possible:

**Read, Reflect, Respond, Write  
800 PTS (80%)**

**Capstone Project:  
200 PTS (20%)**

**Total: 1000 points (100%)**

### Points Possible Each Week:

**Read & Reflect: 10**

**Respond: 15**

**Write: 25**

**Total: 50 points weekly**

# Policies & Agreements

## Acing English 2120

Wanna know a secret to acing this class? Here you go: **Effort is Everything**. If you show up, engage with the course material, and do your best to complete the assignments, you will do well! One of my favorite things about teaching writing is reading my students' reflections on their process. These reflections give students a chance to think about their thinking and their writing, then explain their intent to me. Embrace the reflection process in our class, and don't be afraid to stretch yourself. If you feel you're falling short, tell me about it. I'm not looking for perfect writing; I'm looking for effort, interest, and curiosity. I hope that, along the way, you'll come to love writing as much as I do—if you don't already!

## Classroom Community

This class will be conducted respectfully at all times. This means that, while we might disagree sometimes (in fact, discussion and debate are part of the university experience; part of a well-rounded education!), we will always communicate with respect for each other as human beings.

Kindness is the unalienable rule in our class. I do not use shame in my classroom, and I expect that you will not interact with each other or me in a way that invokes or perpetuates shame or disrespect. We will *all* show respect for each other in every circumstance, and actively honor the risks we take in sharing our experiences through discussions and writing.

To those ends, I will not tolerate *any* expressions of racism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, ableism, ageism, classism, sexism, religious prejudice **or any other form of speech or interaction that in any way diminishes another person or people**. I will not tolerate such things in anybody's written work either. There are some topics that are not up for debate or written argument, and we will discuss what I mean by that during the semester. If you do not know what the terms in the paragraph above mean, please Google them. This applies to any other words you don't know this semester!

If you have a pronoun preference or are at all concerned that you will be misgendered, I welcome you to let me know by email or course message. It is my strict policy to never disclose any student's personal information, including immigration status,

to *anyone* without explicit student consent. Our classroom is a safe and dynamic space, and I expect you to *respectfully* push the boundaries of your ideals, beliefs, and thoughts. I will, in return, protect and respect your personal integrity to every degree possible. If you have any questions about any of this, please let me know.

## Attendance

If you signed up for this course, I assume that you plan to log in to Learn and do the work! To pass this class, you must prepare and participate fully in the activities listed in each week's agenda, and log in frequently. **Students who miss the first assignments or who do not log in regularly will be dropped.**

## Office Hours

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, I am not able to hold in-person office hours until further notice. This semester, all appointments will take place on Zoom or by phone. I will open my Zoom room on Thursdays and Fridays from 1-4 pm. You are welcome to pop in unannounced but priority will be given to students who schedule a time. To avoid hanging out in the waiting room until I'm available, please send me a course message to arrange a time. If you arrange a meeting time I will be there at that time and will wait for no more than ten minutes before I move on to another student. Students who schedule time to meet with outside of class typically do better overall.

## Assignment Deadlines

Deadlines are a reality you will face your entire life. In our class, deadlines ensure that I can assess and return your work to you before we move on to other assignments. It's very hard for me to complete a grading cycle only to have another part of that grading cycle show up in my grading queue. That said, I know that lateness happens sometimes! To make things easier on everyone, I enter 0s for all missing assignments at the beginning of my grading cycle. Then I proceed to grade the assignments that were turned in on time. Once I am done grading everything in my queue, I close the assignment portal. Essays will not be accepted after that. Please double check all your assignment submissions to ensure they've uploaded correctly and completely, and save your submission receipts.

## Credit-Hour Statement

This is a three credit-hour course. Class meets online for sixteen weeks during the Fall 2020 semester. Students are expected to complete a minimum of six hours of out-of-class work (or homework, study, assignment completion, and class preparation) each week.

## Student Privacy

Student privacy is strongly protected by professors at UNM-Valencia. In fact, a federal statute called FERPA strictly prohibits the instructor or administrators from talking to anyone but the student about his/her progress. If a student has questions about a grade on an assignment or about the final grade for the course, FERPA dictates that the student is the ONLY ONE who may speak to the instructor regarding their grades.

In sum, parents, relatives, and friends will not be allowed access to information about student performance. All other outside requests for information release must be sent to and approved by the UNM-VC registrar: (505) 925-8580.

## Technical Assistance

If you have questions about computer-related issues, please call (505) 277-5757, M-F, 8:00 am-12:00 noon and M-F, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm MST. Computer technicians are available and happy to help you solve those difficult problems. For Blackboard Learn Assistance click on the tab entitled, "How to use Learn," which is located on the left-hand menu bar of our course page.

## Equal Opportunity & Non Discrimination

**The following statement is from UNM Main Office of Equal Opportunity:**

"In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM Faculty, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants are considered 'responsible employees' by the Department of Education (see page 15 - <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf>). This designation requires that any report of gender discrimination which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity ([oeo.unm.edu](http://oeo.unm.edu)). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>."

In other words, if you tell me (out loud or in writing) about an incident or experience of "sexual harassment, sexual misconduct [and/or] sexual violence" which is based in gender—which can include stalking, and which may have occurred on

or off campus—then I am obligated to share that information with our OEO folks. They will follow up with you and provide support and resources you can access.

## Accessibility and Universal Design

If you have a documented disability, the Equal Access Services office at UNM-Valencia will provide me with a letter outlining your accommodations. I will then discuss the accommodations with you to determine the best learning environment. If you feel that you need accommodations, but have not documented your disability, please contact Jeanne Lujan, the coordinator for Equal Access Services at 925-8910 or [jmlujan@unm.edu](mailto:jmlujan@unm.edu). I also encourage you to approach me with any other life circumstances that may affect your participation in the course.

## Academic Support

Free tutoring, both in-person and online, is available at the Learning Resources Center (L Building) on the UNM-Valencia Campus or through the Main Campus tutoring program. Please call (505) 925-8907 for an appointment at the Valencia Campus. I am also available to help you with individual writing issues during a private Zoom session!

## Dropping a Class

Here are a few things you need to know before you consider dropping a class in college:

A drop before the end of the third week in a sixteen week semester session will not appear on your transcript, and you will not earn credit hours or a grade in the course.

Your instructor can drop you from the course at any point in the semester before finals for violating the attendance policy.

If you, your instructor, or the Dean of Students initiates a drop after the third week, you will receive a W.

If no drop is initiated by the end of the semester by any party, then based on your performance and attendance your instructor will use his/her discretion to decide whether to assign you a grade from A+ to F or a W.

At UNM a C or above is passing. When trying to decide whether or not to drop a course, consider the outcome of earning a grade below C as opposed to a W, and vice versa. For grades C- to D-, you will earn credit hours, but you will have to repeat the course, and the grade will appear on your transcript and factor into your Grade Point Average.

## UNM Academic Dishonesty Policy

"Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and

professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or who otherwise fails to meet the expected standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in course work may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.”

Academic integrity is paramount to your success in any class. Plagiarism or cheating is never tolerated. Any instance of this could result in a grade of zero for that assignment.

“Academic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

#### > RESOURCES:

The UNM Academic Dishonesty Policy can be found here: <https://policy.unm.edu/regents-policies/section-4/4-8.html>.

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a type of academic dishonesty. It occurs when writers deliberately use another person’s language, ideas, or materials and present them as

their own without acknowledging the source. It includes, but is not limited to:

Failing to quote material taken from another source.

Failing to cite material taken from another source.

Submitting writing that was written by another person or for another class.

Submitting writing that was substantially edited by another person.

## Possible Consequences

Adequately redo or revise the assignment in question;

Fail the assignment in question;

Be dropped from the class with a W

Fail the class.

Be subject to more severe sanctions by the University.

## THE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY: A helpful tool for avoiding plagiarism

Many times, plagiarism is unintentional—the result of not keeping track of your research. To avoid unintentional plagiarism, start an **annotated bibliography** when you begin your research. Here are some steps to get you started:

**Set aside space in a notebook or start a Word document you dedicate to your annotated bibliography.**

Name and save your document using a convention that connects to your paper.

**Using this document, write down information about your sources.** This info includes page numbers and verbatim quotations (also with page numbers) that you might choose to use in your writing.

**Write your thoughts about your source information and your quotes.** Your goal, here, should be to restate the information in your own way using your own words.

### Pro tips:

Quoting too often or using long blocks of text can also amount to plagiarism. *Your* words should come first; quotes should serve only as evidence to support *your* claims

**If you can’t restate a quote in your own words, you probably don’t understand it well enough to use it.** Again, your words come first! Wise words: If in doubt, leave it out!

Check out the MLA and Annotated Bibliography resources available on the Purdue Online Writing Lab website: <https://owl.purdue.edu/>