



*fall 2021*

# INTERMEDIATE COMPOSITION

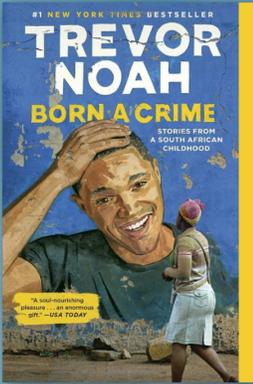
Assistant Professor Ana N. June

*syllabus*

**ENGLISH 2120-502 | CRN 64626 | 3 CREDIT HOURS | AUGUST 23 to DECEMBER 12, 2021**

**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.

## BOOKS



*Born a Crime*  
by Trevor Noah  
One World, 2019  
ISBN-13: 978-0399588198



*Carry*  
by Toni Jensen  
Ballantine Books, 2020.  
ISBN-13: 978-1984821188

## CONTACT

Ana N. June  
anajune@unm.edu  
Zoom office hours:  
T&Th 1 pm-4 pm & by appt.  
[Reserve a time here](#)

# WELCOME!

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.

You will read Trevor Noah's memoir *Born a Crime*, Toni Jensen's memoir, *Carry*, and essays, news items, and other interesting pieces. We will discuss your reading during weekly Zoom sessions or in a Slack discussion board, depending on your schedule. You will write mini essays each week and complete a Capstone project, and all of this writing, along with reflections on your process, will go in a substantive portfolio document. This is not an easy class, but it is accessible to anyone who puts forth the effort. 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, openness, 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

## ENGLISH 2120 CLASS STRUCTURE

The structure of this class is relatively simple: Every week you will 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 or news piece I find. I sometimes assign videos as well. You will reflect on the materials and your weekly discussion either on Zoom with me and your classmates or in a Slack discussion board. You'll also write a mini essay.

## PORTFOLIO TO CAPSTONE

This semester you will write all of your work in one document which will become your course portfolio. By the end of the semester, your portfolio will be many pages long, and showcase your growth as a writer.

In the last two weeks you will develop your Capstone, which will comprise the following: An Introduction, Researched Revision and Expansion of one previous piece, a Creative Craft essay, and a substantive reflection on your work over the course of the semester. If you keep up with the weekly assignments, you will be more than ready for the Capstone.

## GET TO KNOW THE SLO'S ENG 2120 STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- 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.
- Students will analyze the subjects, purposes, audiences, and constraints that influence and determine document creation.
- Students will develop research strategies for writing, gathering information from primary and secondary sources.
- Students will use appropriate documentation and document design in writing.
- Students will describe and evaluate rhetorical choices.

## READING SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1:** "Wisdom in the Age of Information and the Importance of Storytelling in Making Sense of the World: An Animated Essay"

**WEEK 2:** Chapters 1-4 *Born a Crime*, Trevor Noah

**WEEK 3:** Chapters 5-8 *Born a Crime*, Trevor Noah

**WEEK 4:** Chapters 9-13 *Born a Crime*, Trevor Noah

**WEEK 5:** Chapters 14-17 *Born a Crime*, Trevor Noah

**WEEK 6:** Chapter 18 *Born a Crime*, Trevor Noah | "House as Home: Writing the Places That Raised Us," by Beth Kephart

**WEEK 7:** Chapters 1-3 *Carry*, Toni Jensen

**WEEK 8:** Chapters 4-6 *Carry*, Toni Jensen

**WEEK 9:** Chapters 7-10 *Carry*, Toni Jensen

**WEEK 10:** Chapter 11-15 *Carry*, Toni Jensen

**WEEK 11:** Chapter 16 *Carry*, Toni Jensen | "Locating an Essay's DNA," by Joe Bonomo.

**WEEK 12:** "Werner," by Jo Ann Beard and "I've read too many beige stories in my life," by Mark Haddon

**WEEK 13:** "This Place we call Home," by Angie Kang | "A Brief Handbook of Revision for Writers," by Tom Jenks

**WEEK 14:** "Fredericksburg," by Steven Howe | "The Case for Single-Sentence Prose in the Age of Insecurity," by Jason Thayer

**WEEKS 15 & 16:** These weeks you will read selections of your peers' Capstone work.

## ATTENDANCE

If you signed up for this course, I assume that you plan to log in to Learn and do the work! Students who miss the first assignments or who do not log in regularly will be dropped.

## OFFICE HOURS

I will open my Zoom room on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4 pm. You are welcome to pop in unannounced but priority will be given to students who schedule a time using the [Calendly](#) app.

I will wait for no more than ten minutes before I move on to another student. Students who schedule time to meet with me outside of class typically do better overall.

## FINAL GRADES

are determined using a traditional percentage system. 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

## CREDIT-HOUR STATEMENT:

This is a three-credit-hour course. Class meets online for sixteen weeks during the Fall 2021 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.

## ABOUT GRADING IN 2120

### COMPLETION POINTS, FINAL GRADE, LATE POLICY

This class follows an "ungraded" model. This means that your work will be scored as complete (r) or incomplete (o), and instead of receiving grades for everything you do, you will receive specific feedback on your weekly writing assignments.

Your final project is the only assignment that will receive a grade; that grade will be your final score for the semester. The grading scale for UNM is to the left, and your final project will be scored based on a clear rubric you will receive in advance.

Each week this semester you will participate in conversations about the assigned topics with your classmates either through Zoom or on Slack, and turn in a writing assignment composed in your Course Portfolio. After each due date I will read your work and give you reflective feedback. Sometimes this feedback will be written in your document; sometimes I will record it and give you a video link. Once I've finished my feedback I will give you completion points—one for each item you've completed (2 each week). These points are not a grade, they are designed to help you track your progress.

At the end of the semester, you will complete a Capstone project (details are to the left) and turn your Course Portfolio in for the last time on December 12. Your final grade depends on the effort apparent in your work over the semester, as well as a personal reflection on your growth. I will ask you what grade you feel you deserve and why, and you will need to make your case using good details from your work this semester.

Please know that your Capstone work will rely on your semester coursework and my feedback, so if you don't do anything during the semester you will not be able to compose a passing Capstone and you will have to retake the class at a later date.

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 so that the feedback is helpful to your learning. 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 zeroes 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. Assignments will be accepted as long as the portal is open, with no penalty. Once it closes, I will only accept assignments that are late due to overwhelming circumstances, and we will need to meet and discuss the situation in advance.

Please double-check all your assignment submissions to ensure they've uploaded correctly and completely, and save your submission receipts.

## OUR COMMUNITY:

Before anything else, we are a community of scholars working, thinking, learning, and writing together! To that end, this class will be conducted respectfully at all times. This means that though we might disagree sometimes (in fact, discussion and debate are an important part of a well-rounded education), we will always communicate with respect for each other as human beings.

Kindness is the rule in our class. 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.

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 may in any way diminish another person or people. I will not tolerate such things in anybody's written work either. There are some topics that are not appropriate 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 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 invite you to let me know by email or course message.

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.

It is my strict policy to never disclose any student's personal information, including immigration status, to anyone without explicit student consent. All students are welcome in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. I will respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status.

As for all students in the class, family emergency-related absences are normally excused with reasonable notice to the professor, as noted in the attendance guidelines above. UNM as an institution has made a core commitment to the success of all our students, including members of our undocumented community. The Administration's welcome is found on our website: <http://undocumented.unm.edu/>.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### 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.

### ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY:

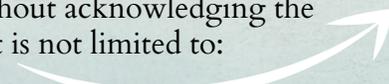
"Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or who otherwise fails 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. The UNM Academic Dishonesty Policy can be found here.

### 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.

When you submit your work in Learn, a database scans your writing and generates a report on how much of the writing in your assignment can be found elsewhere—including in other papers submitted through Learn. Please make sure you write original work for our class and cite your sources properly.

The Purdue OWL is a wonderful resource for MLA guidelines, including how to cite your work and avoid plagiarizing!

## **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 second week in an eight-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 initiate a drop after the second 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.

## **ACADEMIC SUPPORT:**

The Learning Center staff is online and ready to meet you and support you in your studies! Click this [link](#) to begin.

## **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 [this link](#), page 15). 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, [click here](#).

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 on 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 staff. They will follow up with you and provide support and resources you can access.

## **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 sidebar of our course page.

## **ACCESSIBILITY & 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 Cheryl Dilger, the coordinator for Equal Access Services at 925-8910 or [cdilger@unm.edu](mailto:cdilger@unm.edu).

I also encourage you to approach me with any other life circumstances that may affect your participation in the course.

**YES, our class meets online only, but this mandate applies to all UNM students. Please read:**

## **UNM ADMINISTRATIVE MANDATE ON REQUIRED VACCINATIONS**

All students, staff, and instructors are required by UNM Administrative Mandate on Required Vaccinations to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 as soon as possible, but no later than September 30, 2021, and must provide proof of vaccination or of a UNM validated limited exemption or exemption no later than September 30, 2021 to the UNM vaccination verification site. Students seeking medical exemption from the vaccination policy must submit a request to the UNM verification site for review by the UNM Accessibility Resource Center. Students seeking religious exemption from the vaccination policy must submit a request for reasonable accommodation to the UNM verification site for review by the Compliance, Ethics, and Equal Opportunity Office. For further information on the requirement and on limited exemptions and exemptions, see the UNM Administrative Mandate on Required Vaccinations.

### **UNM REQUIREMENT ON MASKING IN INDOOR SPACES**

All students, staff, and instructors are required to wear face masks in indoor classes, labs, studios and meetings on UNM campuses, see masking requirement. Vaccinated and unvaccinated instructors teaching in classrooms must wear a mask when entering and leaving the classroom and when moving around the room. When vaccinated instructors are able to maintain at least six feet of distance, they may choose to remove their mask for the purpose of increased communication during instruction. Instructors who are not vaccinated (because of an approved medical or religious exemption), or who are not vaccinated yet, must wear their masks at all times. Students who do not wear a mask indoors on UNM campuses can expect to be asked to leave the classroom and to be dropped from a class if failure to wear a mask occurs more than once in that class. With the exception of the limited cases described above, students and employees who do not wear a mask in classrooms and other indoor public spaces on UNM campuses are subject to disciplinary actions.

### **COMMUNICATION ON CHANGE IN MODALITY:**

The university may direct that classes move to remote delivery at any time to preserve the health and safety of the students, instructor and community. Please check your email and your UNM Learn site regularly for updates about our class, and please check <https://bringbackthepack.unm.edu> regularly for general UNM updates about COVID-19 and the health of our community.

### **ACCEPTABLE MASKS AND MASK WEARING IN CLASS:**

A two-layer mask that covers the nose and mouth and that is cleaned regularly is acceptable, as are disposable medical masks, KN95, KF94, FFP1 and FFP2 masks. A face shield is not sufficient protection. It is vital that you wear your mask correctly, covering your nose and mouth. Removing your mask for an extended period to eat or drink in class violates the university mask requirement and endangers others.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NOT WEARING A MASK PROPERLY:**

If you don't wear a mask, or if you do not wear a mask properly by covering your nose and mouth, you will be asked to leave class. If you fail to wear a mask properly on more than one occasion, you can expect to be dropped from the class. If you insist on remaining in the classroom while not wearing a mask, class will be dismissed for the day to protect others and you will be dropped from the class immediately. The instructor will try to have a few disposable masks available in the classroom on a first-come, first-served basis.