

University of New Mexico-Valencia Campus

English 1120: Composition 11

Online Course Syllabus

Spring 2026
English 1120-505
Composition II
Online Asynchronous Course
CRN: 50112 (16-Week Course)
Dates: 1/19/2026-5/16/2026

Lizbeth Axelrod, MFA
Office Location: Online Via Zoom
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Zoom Office Hours: M 10-11am and by Appt.

Course Description: In this course, students will explore argument in multiple genres. Research and writing practices emphasize summary, analysis, evaluation, and integration of secondary sources. Students will analyze rhetorical situations in terms of audience, contexts, purpose, mediums, and technologies and apply this knowledge to their reading, writing, and research. Students will sharpen their understanding of how writing and other modes of communication work together for rhetorical purposes. The emphasis of this course will be on genre, research, and multimodal methods.

1120 COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES – CLO'S

CLO 1. Analyze the rhetorical situation for purpose, main ideas, support, audience, and organizational strategies in a variety of genres.

CLO 2. Employ writing processes such as planning, organizing, composing, and revising.

CLO 3. Use a variety of research methods to gather appropriate, credible information.

CLO 4. Evaluate sources, claims, and evidence for their relevance, credibility, and purpose.

CLO 5. Quote, paraphrase, and summarize sources ethically, citing and documenting them appropriately.

CLO 6. Integrate information from sources to effectively support claims as well as other purposes (to provide background information, evidence/examples, illustrate an alternative view, etc.).

CLO 7. Use an appropriate voice (including syntax and word choice).

REQUIRED TEXTS & MATERIALS

- All texts will be available in Canvas and Supplied by Instructor
- UNM e-mail address & Canvas
- Access to ZOOM for online meetings
- Any good, up-to-date college dictionary, for example *The American Heritage*, *Random House*, or *Webster's New Collegiate*. Alternatively, you may use a reputable online dictionary such as *Dictionary.com*, or the Oxford English Dictionary

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

For assistance with course-related questions, I am always available to meet with you during my online student office zoom hours on Mondays from 11am-12pm. If you cannot meet during these times, let me know and we can schedule an appointment. You can also reach me by e-mail at laxelrod@unm.edu during normal business hours from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, M-F. Please allow 24 hours for a response.



Instructor Biography: Liz Axelrod, MFA teaches Writing & Rhetoric, Writing & Literature, Composition 1&2, Technical Communication 1 & 2, Contemporary & Analysis of Literature, and Creative Writing. She has held previous academic appointments at State University of New York, Westchester Community College, City Tech, The New York City College of Technology, and she currently teaches at UNM Valencia and CNM. Liz received her MFA from the New School for Public Engagement, NYC in 2013. She was Managing Editor of the [New School's Literary Journal - 12th Street](#). Her work has been widely published. Her first book of poetry, [Go Ask Alice](#) (June 2016) was a finalist (5th Place) in the Finishing Line Press New Woman's Voices Competition. She also writes book reviews, and her work has been published widely. She was founder, co-host and curator of the Cedarmere Reading Series in the home of William Cullen Bryant (2014-2018). You can find more about my creative writing life and published work here: [Liz Axelrod, MFA](#)

REQUIRED TECHNICAL SKILLS

In order to participate and succeed in this class, you will need to be able to perform the following basic technical tasks:



- Use Canvas (<https://canvasinfo.unm.edu/students/index.html>)
 - Use email – including attaching files, opening files, downloading attachments
 - Copy and paste within applications including Microsoft Office
 - Open a hyperlink (click on a hyperlink to get to a website or online resource)
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- Use Microsoft Office applications
 - Create, download, update, save and upload MS Word & Office documents
 - Create, download, update, save and upload MS PowerPoint presentations
 - Download, annotate, save and upload PDF files
 - Be open to using software programs that may be new to you. **While these aren't required, you may want to use different programs to design your projects.**

STUDENT SUPPORT & COVID INFO:

COVID-19 Health and Awareness. UNM is a mask friendly, but not a mask required, community. If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please do not come to class. If you do need to stay home, please communicate with me at laxelrod@unm.edu; I can work with you to provide alternatives for course participation and completion. Let me, an advisor, or another UNM staff member know that you need support so that we can connect you to the right resources. Please be aware that UNM will publish information on websites and email about any changes to our public health status and community response.

[PASOS Resource Center](#) (505) 925-8546, <mailto:pasos@unm.edu>. The Resource Center is an on-campus center that serves as a “one-stop” for all non-academic needs of UNM-Valencia students.

[Student Health and Counseling](#) (SHAC) at (505) 277-3136. If you are having active respiratory symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, sore throat, etc.) AND need testing for COVID-19; OR If you recently tested positive and may need oral treatment, call SHAC.

[LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center](#) (505) 277-2911 can offer help with contacting faculty and managing

Accommodations: UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity to participate. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact the [UNM-Valencia Equal Access Services](#) (Sarah Clawson, Coordinator), at (505) 925-8840 or by email at sjclawson@unm.edu. Also available is the [Accessibility Resource Center](#) at UNM-Albuquerque at arcsrvs@unm.edu or 505-277-3506.

Our classroom and university should foster mutual respect, kindness, and support. If you have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or violence, please seek [support](#) and [report](#) incidents. Find confidential services at [LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center](#), the [Women’s Resource Center](#), and the [LGBTQ Resource Center](#). UNM prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including gender, sex stereotyping, gender expression, and gender identity). All instructors are “responsible employees” who must [communicate reports](#) of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence to [Compliance, Ethics and Equal Opportunity](#). For more information, please see [UAP 2720](#) and [UAP 2740](#).

Contact me via email (laxelrod@unm.edu) or Canvas messaging or in office/drop-in hours if you need additional support. Or Contact the [UNM-Valencia Equal Access Services](#) (Sarah Clawson, Coordinator), at (505) 925-8840 or by email at sjclawson@unm.edu, Or [Accessibility Resource Center](#) (<https://arc.unm.edu/>) at <mailto:arcsrvs@unm.edu> (505) 277-3506.

Resources to support study skills and time management are available through:

[UNM-Valencia Learning Commons \(Tutoring\)](#)

Tutoring is available to you in math, science, writing, and other subjects through the Learning Commons: Learning and STEM Centers and Writing Center. In person tutoring is in these centers in the LRC (the building that also has the library). Tutoring in Zoom and, for writing, through email, is also available.

Making use of tutoring is a fantastic way to use your resources and set yourself up to learn deeply and well in your courses. **To schedule an appointment, please go to:** [Learning Commons Bookings](#)

If you are making an email appointment with the Writing Center, email your draft to tutor@unm.edu after you fill out the form above. If you have difficulty with the scheduling link above, would like an appointment in a subject not listed at that link, or have a question, email tutor@unm.edu. You'll get answers during business hours Monday through Friday. The webpage, with more details about available hours, is here: [Learning Commons: Tutoring Services webpage](#).

[Center for Academic Program Support \(CAPS\)](#). Many students have found that time management workshops can help them meet their goals (consult [\(CAPS\)](#) website under "services").

BASIC COURSE POLICIES

LATE WORK POLICY: While I do understand that life and prior commitments can sometimes get in the way of your work, late work is not accepted in this course without approval. Weekly assignments can be made up if a student is absent, but points will be taken off for lateness. Students are expected to attend class, to log in to Canvas at least three times a week and be prepared to work when class begins. This is a computer classroom - Make sure your computer is on and that you are logged in to begin work in Microsoft Word/Canvas Learn. **Because we use the computers every day, having your NetID and password is mandatory for success in the course.** No talking is allowed during the lecture. No cellphones are allowed in class. There is a zero-tolerance policy for any of these actions. Students who do not comply will be asked to leave without warning and will receive a zero for the day's activities.

ASSIGNMENT POLICY

What You'll Learn in English 1120

Learning Area	What This Means for You
Rhetorical Situation & Genre	You will analyze, write, and reflect on arguments in different genres. You'll learn how purpose, audience, evidence, and medium (print, digital, multimodal) shape effective communication.
Writing as a Social Act	You'll explore how writing functions within communities—locally, nationally, and globally—and how discourse communities influence what we write and how we write it.
Writing as a Process	You'll practice writing as an ongoing process that includes planning, researching, drafting, revising, editing, proofreading, collaborating, and responding to feedback across multiple technologies and formats.
Grammar & Usage	You'll strengthen clarity and fluency in standardized edited American English while also learning to analyze and value the use of multiple languages, dialects, and registers in writing.
Reflection	You'll reflect on your growth as a writer and consider how skills developed through different genres, media, and technologies can support your academic, professional, and personal goals.
Research	You'll use research and writing to explore questions, challenge assumptions, and engage with multiple perspectives. You'll practice ethical source use and develop research-based academic arguments.

Unless otherwise specified, all writing assignments must follow MLA format and be typewritten, double-spaced in a 12pt, Times New Roman font. Most Essay length requirements are 750-1200 words each, or 3-5 pages. MLA specifications and help are available in Canvas in the Course Content and Resources section with links and other resources to help you format your papers correctly.

MISSED WORK – *I will allow students to make up missed work – but you cannot make up missed discussion boards.* I do understand that life is hard and there are many reasons to not get the work in – however, this is an online class, and it will move fast. Having late work pile up can be stressful. It is best for you to try hard to keep up. Assignments that are 24-48 hours late will not receive penalties – but after that points will come off. Exceptions are limited to documented, serious, and inescapable emergencies, such as car accident or hospitalization

ENGAGEMENT – You can participate best when you are prepared, having done the reading and homework and posting in the discussion boards. Be ready to demonstrate what you’ve learned. I evaluate your level of engagement – *evidenced by active listening, quality contributions, and productive use of class time* – during and after each module.

RESPECT –It is of utmost importance to demonstrate courtesy to your fellow classmates – in peer reviews, discussion boards and in general. Each of you will be working for a grade when you present your work. I have zero tolerance for rude or disruptive comments. Students who persist in such behavior will forfeit points and possibly fail the assignment in question.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This is an online class – the work is up to you. You must log into canvas at least three times a week. It is your responsibility to keep up with reading or see me during office hours if you have questions about the material. Students who do not log onto canvas during the first week of class will be dropped. Students who miss more than 4 weekly discussion posts (unexcused) will be dropped. Excused absences include documented hospitalization or other documented, unexpected extreme emergencies. If excessive absenteeism that falls under the purview of “excused absences” continues, I reserve the right to drop students from the course. Please note: doctor’s appointments, child-care, court dates, and job scheduling conflicts may not count as excused absences (always check with me first).

PLAGIARISM & AI USE

Any form of plagiarism including using **AI to write your papers** is unacceptable and the paper in question will receive a failing grade. Plagiarism means using language and/or ideas without acknowledging their source, copying directly from websites and AI Generated writing. Plagiarism includes such activities as copying another student’s papers or ideas, downloading and turning in papers from the Internet, or copying passages from outside sources without proper documentation. We will have a class discussion and assignment on Plagiarism. There will be additional resources on Blackboard as well. Plagiarism may also result in failure of the entire course or disciplinary action by the University.

AI Minor Uses Permitted: Commonly used AI generators include **ChatGPT**, **Claude**, and **Google Gemini** for text/chat; **Midjourney**, **DALL-E 3**, and **Stable Diffusion** (via tools like Leonardo.Ai, [Microsoft Copilot](#)) for images; **Runway** and **Suno** for video/music; and tools like **Jasper** and **Notion AI** for writing assistance, with many platforms integrating multiple models like [Adobe Firefly](#) and **Canva**

For this course, YOU must be the author of all coursework. You may use AI in some minor or non-substantive ways. For example, unless otherwise specified in the assignment, you may use AI to help with formatting, generating ideas and points to make, polish or edit text you have drafted, create an outline of an essay, modify or design presentation slides, review content, quiz yourself, or for other studying purposes. **DO NOT LET AI DO THE WORK FOR YOU** – use it carefully and ethically as you would any other helpful resource. Think of it this way - you would not have a tutor write your paper for you or buy a paper online or have someone else do your work for you. That is cheating. **DO NOT CHEAT.** To learn more on how to avoid plagiarism, students can speak to me, consult a tutor, or refer to <http://library.acadiau.ca/sites/default/files/library/tutorials/plagiarism/>

.NETIQUETTE STATEMENT:

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly in an online and computer classroom.

In our class we will follow the following rules: Be considerate of your fellow students. No swearing or hate speech in the forums. All opinions are welcome, but they must be backed up by facts and reliable sources. No one is allowed to inflame or coerce another student's beliefs, ideas, or assumptions. Everyone has different points of view and debate is a large part of the discussions in this class. Speeches & Debate must be respectful, collegiate, informed and constructive – and it must stay in our class. Proper use of MLA format, grammar, and tone is required in all formats of this class (discussion boards, email, messages, written responses, workshops and writing assignments).

ONLINE & IN PERSON CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

While I do not expect problems when working with adult learners, these policies ensure a safe and productive classroom environment. The following policies are listed in the University of New Mexico Student Handbook.

- 1) Students must treat one another and the instructor with respect. Derogatory remarks or name-calling is prohibited.
- 2) Students should not interrupt classroom lectures or discussion with non-related comments.
- 3) Students may discuss complaints about the course with their instructor; however, the students must do so in the proper environment, such as via email to the instructor, or during private office hours. Constant complaining in class discussions or in ZOOM meetings may result in the student being asked to leave that day's lesson; continued complaining after the first warning may result in the student being dropped from the course.
- 4) Students should not yell or curse at other students or at the teacher in emails or in the discussions. Class time is a professional learning environment. Obscene language will not be tolerated.
- 5) Sexual harassment will not be tolerated.
- 6) Behavior that threatens the safety of any class member, including the instructor, will not be tolerated. The offending student will be asked to leave for the day and may be dropped from the course. Security will be called. Intoxication, physical assault and or battery, violence, stalking, or threats fall into this category.
- 7) Students must not threaten the instructor concerning their grades. This type of behavior is considered harassment and/or verbal assault. Security will be called.
- 8) If you ever feel unsafe on campus, please call security at (505) 925-8570.

Computer and Technology Policies

Students must log in to Canvas at least three times a week. Save your work often and have a back-up file so as to avoid losing your work.

E-Mail Etiquette

In general, e-mails that you write to me during the semester should include professional language, addressed with a subject heading including the type of question you are asking. For example, "Essay 1" would be an appropriate subject heading for a question regarding the first essay. E-mails should also include a salutation. For example, "Dear Professor Axelrod" would be an appropriate salutation for an electronic message. Be sure to sign your first and last name, and proofread your e-mail for grammatical errors. Please avoid text-speak. Learning to write professional e-mails early on is a skill you need as you progress to higher academic levels and further career pursuits.

Equal Access

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students with documented special needs will be accommodated in this course. Students with disabilities should visit Accessibility Services to obtain an Equal Access form, which needs to be sent to the professor within the first two weeks of class. The contact information for the Student Services Office is (505) 925-8560 and <http://www.unm.edu/~vcadvise/equalaccess.htm>.

Land Acknowledgement: Founded in 1889, the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples. We gratefully recognize our history.

Resource: [Division for Equity and Inclusion](#).

Citizenship and/or Immigration Status: All students are welcome in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. Your professor will respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. 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/>.

Respectful and Responsible Learning: We all have shared responsibility for ensuring that learning occurs safely and equitably. UNM has important policies to preserve and protect the academic community, especially policies on student grievances (Faculty Handbook D175 and D176), academic dishonesty (FH D100), and respectful campus (FH CO9). These are in the *Student Pathfinder* (<https://pathfinder.unm.edu>) and the *Faculty Handbook* (<https://handbook.unm.edu>). Please ask for help in understanding and avoiding plagiarism or academic dishonesty, which can both have very serious consequences. Support: [Center for Academic Program Support](#) (CAPS). Many students have found that time management workshops can help them meet their goals (consult (CAPS) website under "services").

Connecting to Campus and Finding Support: UNM-Valencia has many resources and centers to help you thrive, [including opportunities to get involved](#), [mental health resources](#), [academic support including tutoring](#), [resource centers](#), free food at [Valencia Campus Food Pantry](#), and [jobs on campus](#). Your advisor, staff at the resource centers and I can help you find the right opportunities for you.

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, or 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 UNMVC registrar: (505) 925-8580.

PARTICIPATION

Participation is mandatory in this course. Participation means actively participating in your education, including class discussions, writing workshops, and other online group exercises. Make sure to bring course materials and take notes during every class lecture.

Your contribution is valuable to your peers' learning as well as your own. You are expected to participate respectfully and thoughtfully. *If you are distracting yourself electronically, you are not present.* Any distracting/inappropriate behavior (e.g., flaming on the discussion boards), will earn you a “check –“. At the end of the course, your participation points will be calculated based on this system.

Participation is important to the entire class; therefore, it is rewarded. Excessive absences (missing more than 4 of our discussions in the 16 week class, even “excused”) can result in being dropped. As this is an online class with no scheduled meetings you do not need to worry about absences unless you are unable to log on to canvas. Excused absences are illness or emergencies; non-emergency appointments, child/family care, court hearings, and job scheduling conflicts do not count as excused absences.

Required Work and Grading

You will do four major writing, research, and analysis projects in this class and you will integrate your emerging knowledge and experience through reflective writing.

Major Assignments

Assignment Type	Points
Genre Analysis Project	100
Annotated Bibliography Project	75
Proposals x 3 (50pts x 3)	150
Discussion Boards (25pts x10)	250
Multi Modal Argument Project	100
Reflections (50pts x 4)	250
Short Reading Recaps (25 points x 5)	125
Video Lectures (25pts x 15)	375
Class Final Online Portfolio Project	250
Total Points	1675

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

Class Calendar – ENGL 1120

All Assignments are posted in Weekly Modules on Canvas

Assignments may be subject to change – check weekly Announcements/modules for updates

Most written assignments due on Sundays at 11:59pm in Canvas



English 1120 – 15-Week Course Overview

Week	Focus / Work	Readings/Videos	Assignments Due
1	Course orientation; introduction to rhetoric, genre, and multimodal writing	TBA – In Canvas Module	Video Lecture Comment; Discussion Board
2	Project 1: Designing Your Online Portfolio (site setup, home page, navigation)	TBA – In Canvas Module	Video Lecture Comment; Discussion Board
3	Genre in everyday life; audience and purpose	TBA – In Canvas Module	Video Lecture Comment; Discussion Board
4	Project 2: Genre Analysis – selecting texts and framing analysis	TBA – In Canvas Module	Proposal #1 (Genre Analysis); Video Lecture Comment
5	Drafting and revising Genre Analysis	TBA – In Canvas Module	Genre Analysis Essay; Reflection #1; Discussion Board
6	Introduction to research, credibility, and public discourse	TBA – In Canvas Module	Video Lecture Comment; Discussion Board
7	Project 3: Annotated Bibliography – research questions & source selection	TBA – In Canvas Module	Proposal #2 (Research Topic); Video Lecture Comment
8	Drafting annotations; peer review and synthesis	TBA – In Canvas Module	Draft Annotated Bibliography; Discussion Board
9	Revising research and reflecting on sources	TBA – In Canvas Module	Final Annotated Bibliography (5–6 sources); Reflection #2
10	Introduction to multimodal argument and rhetorical design	TBA – In Canvas Module	Video Lecture Comment; Discussion Board
11	Project 4: Multimodal Argument – planning message, medium, and audience	TBA – In Canvas Module	Proposal #3 (Multimodal Argument); Video Lecture Comment
12	Designing and drafting multimodal arguments	TBA – In Canvas Module	Multimodal Argument Draft; Discussion Board
13	Revising multimodal arguments; rhetorical justification	TBA – In Canvas Module	Final Multimodal Argument; Reflection #3
14	Portfolio revision and synthesis; reflective writing	TBA – In Canvas Module	Video Lecture Comment; Discussion Board
15	Final portfolio polishing and submission	TBA – In Canvas Module	Final Online Portfolio; Final Reflection (#4); Video Lecture Comment