

# English 1120.506: Composition II

Spring 2026

Instructor: Dr. Breanna Griego-Schmitt (Dr. G)

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Office Hours: via Teams, Monday and Tuesdays 9:30-11:30am and by appointment

Department: UNM Valencia English Department

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## Required Materials

Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2015.

(PDF posted in Canvas) Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say, I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing* (Third Edition). New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2017.

An 8.5 x11 notebook for notes

Internet access for assignments and UNM Canvas (I will go over how to use Canvas in class)

Flash drive, Google Drive, etc. to store all of your work

-[lobomail.unm.edu](mailto:lobomail.unm.edu) (UNM email: I'll be using this email to contact you, so make sure you check it!)

-[canvas.unm.edu](https://canvas.unm.edu) (Canvas site: We will use this site during every class meeting!)

Welcome to English 1120! This course is designed to prepare you to compete research at an R-1 university by engaging with various reading techniques, critical thinking strategies, argument, and analysis. It incorporates advanced techniques needed for problem solving and organization in college and in life. **Our course is Online MAX: this means that we do not have set lectures/Zoom meetings and we do not meet in person. You will complete the course work on your own time throughout the week and all assignments/discussion boards/journals will be due before 11:59pm on Sundays. I have office hours via Microsoft Teams ([teams.microsoft.com](https://teams.microsoft.com)) on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30am. During those hours, students can reach out to me via messages/chat or through calls (voice or video).**

By the end of the semester, you will be able to do the following:

- Locate and state the main idea, thesis, and/or theme in essays, expository writing, and narratives.
- Demonstrate the ability to identify and argue for and against main idea.
- Apply cognitive and meta-cognitive reading strategies such as outlining, mapping, diagramming, summarizing, Cornell note-taking, skimming, paraphrasing, and lecture and text-based note taking.
- Apply critical reading/thinking skills such as—but not limited to—inferring the author's meaning, differentiating fact from opinion, detecting purpose/tone/bias and propaganda techniques, and evaluating arguments.

Keep in mind this syllabus is a contract between us. Please recognize that **YOU** are responsible for the policies on these pages. I reserve the right to change our schedule and/or assignments based on our class needs and I will always let you know in advance!

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**Response Time:** Emails will typically receive a response within 48 hours. Assignments will typically be returned within one week and no later than two weeks after the original submission.

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### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Locate and state the main idea, thesis, and/or theme in essays, expository writing, and narratives.
  2. Demonstrate the ability to identify and argue for and against a main idea.
  3. Apply cognitive and meta-cognitive reading strategies such as outlining, mapping, diagramming, summarizing, Cornell note-taking, skimming, paraphrasing, and lecture and text-based note-taking.
  4. Apply critical reading/thinking skills such as--but not limited to--inferring the author's meaning, differentiating fact from opinion, detecting purpose/tone/bias and propaganda techniques, and evaluating arguments.
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### **What to Expect on a Daily Basis:**

- Class will be run asynchronously remote. This means that there is not a specific day or time that you are required to be present and everything will be presented, submitted, and returned via Canvas. The Weekly Module will contain all of the information that you need for that week's work, assignments, discussions, groups, etc.
- Assignments will be due on Sundays before 11:59pm.
- You are responsible for maintaining all of your work throughout the semester. Your assignments will be returned via Canvas so you will always have access to them. You should save your work in your Outlook OneDrive as backup.
- Make sure that you save your files as a Word document (.doc/.docx) or PDF (.pdf) with a detailed file name in a class folder. For example: English\_SWA1.docx. In such a folder, the syllabus and course schedule would be important documents to include, particularly in the event of Canvas or internet outages so that you can contact your instructor.
- Assignments will ONLY be accepted as Word documents or PDFs. Submissions will not be accepted in the following formats: Pages, Google Docs, SharePoint links, PNG, IMG, RTF, screenshots, or any other format!

**This is a three credit-hour course delivered in an entirely online modality over 16 weeks during the Spring 2026 semester.**

**Virtual Class:** Our virtual class consists of individual and group activities (peer review, reading questions, brainstorming, group work, etc.). In order to successfully participate in class, you need to be prepared. What does that mean? It means that you have completed the assigned reading for the week, you have answered the related Reading Guide questions, you've completed notes and homework when required, and you have access to the documents for that week.

If you are struggling, please contact Dr. Griego-Schmitt as soon as possible.

### **Required Work and Grading Scale:**

Each sequence will include at least one short writing assignment, classroom discussion, a larger writing assignment, and peer commentary.

Sequence One: 20%  
Sequence Two: 35%  
Final/Sequence Three: 30%  
Journals: 5%  
Discussions: 10%  
Total: 100%

### **Grading Scale:**

A+	96+						
A	94-95	B	84-85%	C	74-75%	D	64-65%
A-	90-93%	B-	80-83%	C-	70-73%	D-	60-63%
B+	86-89.9%	C+	76-79%	D+	67-69%	F	-59.9%

**NOTE: UNM requires a C or higher (75% or higher) to pass a college course.**

**Late Work:** If you miss a deadline on Canvas for submitting an assignment, the system will not allow you to submit your work late. Generally I do not accept late work, however I understand that things come up and we all have a lot going on in our lives. Please reach out to me as soon as possible if something comes up! Late work will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**I only accept HSAs and SSAs through Canvas (canvas.unm.edu).** If you have an extenuating circumstance, you must contact me as soon as possible. It will be my decision whether to accept your assignment or not.

**Low Stakes Assignments (LSAs):** There will be several LSAs throughout the semester from 1-3 typed pages in length typically written outside of class. These LSAs will connect with the rest of your sequence and will help you work towards your major assignment.

**High Stakes Assignments (HSAs):** The HSAs come at the end of a sequence and will be based on the work that you've done in the LSAs.

**All work must be submitted as Word documents (.doc or .docx) or PDF (.pdf).** I do not accept SharePoint links, screenshots, RTF, Pages, ODT, Google Docs, IMG, or any other type of submission.

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### **Sexual Harassment and Respectful Campus Policies**

UNM students and instructors are bound by the terms of the Student Code of Conduct, which is published in the UNM Pathfinder at <http://pathfinder.unm.edu/policies.htm#studentcode>.

UNM is committed to providing a safe, productive, and harassment-free workplace for instructors and students. Therefore, UNM affirms its commitment to the joint responsibility of instructors and students to foster and maintain a positive learning environment. For information and assistance, consult the UNM Office of Equal Opportunity at <http://www.unm.edu/~oeounm/index.htm>

Also see our new campus website: [loborespect.unm.edu](http://loborespect.unm.edu). LoboRESPECT is the name of UNM's comprehensive approach to preventing and responding to sexual violence in our campus community.

This website includes information on our prevention education efforts and programs, services and support for victims of sexual violence, our policies and sanctions, and much more. All aspects of LoboRESPECT will elevate and strengthen our conversations and efforts to build and sustain a culture of respect in our campus community.

**If at any time you make me or another student feel threatened or in danger due to your actions or words, University Studies and the Dean of Students Office will immediately address the matter. There is zero tolerance for hate speech, violence, racism, sexism, bigotry, or any other action, speech, writing, etc. that offends, threatens, or insults groups based on race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or other traits.**

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### **Title IX Statement**

Our classroom and our university should always be spaces of mutual respect, kindness, and support, without fear of discrimination, harassment, or violence. Should you ever need assistance or have concerns about incidents that violate this principle, please access the resources available to you on campus. Please note that, because UNM faculty, TAs, and GAs are considered "responsible employees" by the Department of Education, any disclosure of gender discrimination (including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence) made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported by that faculty member, TA, or GA to the university's Title IX coordinator. For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, please see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>.

Support: LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center and the support services listed on its website, the Women's Resource Center and the LGBTQ Resource Center all offer confidential services and reporting.

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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. 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/>.

Non-mandatory reporter locations are resources designed to protect the interests and identity of the students. These include:

[UNM's Womens' Resource Center \(women.unm.edu\)](http://women.unm.edu)  
[UNM's LoboRespect Advocacy Center \(loborespect.unm.edu\)](http://loborespect.unm.edu)  
[UNM's LGBTQ Resource center \(lgbtqrc.unm.edu\)](http://lgbtqrc.unm.edu)

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**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.**

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**Plagiarism Policies and Procedures:** Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. “Plagiarism” is a type of academic dishonesty that occurs when writers deliberately use another person’s language, ideas, or materials and present them as their own without acknowledging the source. Plagiarism can include any of the following:

**Types of Plagiarism:**

- 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 (It’s okay to get help, but your helper should not be rewriting your work).

**Procedures for Plagiarism Cases:**

- Meet with you and a witness (another instructor or a director) to discuss the assignment in question;
- Meet with the Associate Dean to review your case;
- Identify the appropriate consequence;
- File a report with the Dean of Students.

All students who plagiarize will be reported to the Dean of Students, who maintains a file of past plagiarism cases. In addition to the academic consequence imposed by the Dean of Students, students who plagiarize may also:

- Fail the class;
- Be dropped from the class with a WF, a W, or a WP: or
- Fail the assignment in question.

Be aware that Canvas automatically runs submissions through the internet and gives the instructor an exact percentage match and location. It is very easy for us to tell if a student has plagiarized.

**Equal Access:** If you have a qualified disability that requires some form of accommodation to ensure your equal access to learning in this class, please see me as soon as possible so that we can work together to address your needs. In accordance with University Policy 2310 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations must be made for any student who has a qualified disability. A qualified disability is one that has been diagnosed and documented through

UNM's Accessibility Resource Center. See <http://as2.unm.edu/> for more information. Contact Accessibility Resource Center at 505-277-3506 for additional information.

**UNM and COVID-19 (see separate policy in this module)**

Please refer to the UNM page on Coronavirus for official guidelines on symptoms, testing, reporting, confidentiality, and other information related to COVID-19.

[Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) :: New Mexico's Flagship University | The University of New Mexico](#)

[UNM Administrative Mandate on Required COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

We want to keep our students, staff, and faculty safe! The University of New Mexico strives to promote and maintain a safe, healthy learning and working environment for all of our students, faculty, staff and visitors. UNM is closely monitoring the emerging global public health concern related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) through trusted authorities including the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), [U.S. Department of State](#), [World Health Organization](#), [New Mexico Department of Health](#) and UNM Health Sciences.

**Need Writing Assistance?** You can get additional help from trained tutors on campus (CAPS: third floor of Zimmerman library) and online at [www.unm.edu/~caps](http://www.unm.edu/~caps).

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**ACADEMIC DATES**

Friday, January 30:	Last day to add or change sections, or to drop classes with refund
March 16-22:	Spring Break
Friday, April 17:	Last day to drop via LoboWeb without form
Friday, May 8:	Last day to drop with form
Monday, May 11-16:	Finals Week

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**Support in Receiving Help:** Students who ask for help are successful students. I encourage students to be familiar with services and policies that can help them navigate UNM successfully. Many services exist to help you succeed academically, such as [peer tutoring](#) at CAPS and <http://mentalhealth.unm.edu>. There are plenty of ways to find your place and your pack at UNM: see the "student guide" tab on [my.unm.edu](http://my.unm.edu), [students.unm.edu](http://students.unm.edu), or ask me for information about the right resource center or person to contact.

Doing the Right Thing: UNM has policies to preserve and protect you and the academic community available in the [Student Pathfinder](#) as well as in the Faculty Handbook. These include policies on student grievances [D175](#) (undergraduates) and [D176](#) (graduate and professional students), academic dishonesty ([D100](#)), and respectful campus ([CO9](#)). Please ask

for help in understanding and avoiding plagiarism (passing the work or words of others off as your own work or words) or other forms academic dishonesty. Doing something dishonest in a class or on an assignment can lead to serious academic consequences. Come talk with me about your concerns or needs for academic flexibility or talk with support staff at one of our [student resource centers](#) before you do something that may endanger your career.

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