



CLASSROOM: BA 221
MEETING TIME: MWF 10-10:50 AM
NOTE ABOUT TIMES: All Times and Deadlines for this Course are Listed in the Central Time Zone (Commerce, TX) times.

Professor: Dr. Brandon Randolph-Seng (assisted by Supplemental Instructors)
E-mail: brandon.randolph-seng@tamuc.edu
Office & Hours: CB 304; Monday 9:00-11:00 AM and/or by appointment
Website: <http://faculty.tamuc.edu/brandolph-seng>
Please, click on the following link to access A&M-Commerce Covid 19 Information, <https://new.tamuc.edu/coronavirus/>

****The best way to reach me or to make appointments is by MY TAMUC email, which will allow me to respond within 24 hours**

****Students are responsible for all announcements made BY EMAIL**

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

None – Required readings will be provided by the instructor through D2L

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A Signature Course at Texas A&M University- Commerce offers first-year students the opportunity to explore unique topics in engaging learning environments. Students develop college-level skills in communication, critical thinking, and social responsibility through a rigorous intellectual experience. This course is designed to assist students in increasing their knowledge of and skill in critical thinking and acting behaviors. Concepts studied include perception, memory, creativity, and problem solving as they relate to critical thinking. The effects of attitudes, values, logical fallacies, and thinking errors on critical thinking and problem solving are examined. Assignments require students to apply critical thinking skills to real-life situations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Students will demonstrate critical thinking by employing evidence/information effectively in the explanation of an issue, idea, artifact or event and using investigative/analytical skills to explore questions or solve problems.
2. Students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion in either written, oral and/or visual format with an evident message and organizational structure.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

A specific course schedule is included at the end of this syllabus.

GRADING

Component	Type	Value
Critical Thinking Case Assignment (2 @ 150/Each)	Team	300 points (30%)
Weekly Quiz (10 @ 20/Each)	Individual	200 points (20%)
In Class Attendance/Assignments	Individual	100 points (10%)
Peer Mentor Participation	Individual	100 points (10%)
Lionizing Case Poster	Team	300 points (30%)
Course Total		1000 points

GRADING SCALE:

Points	Grade
895 - 1000	A
795 - 894	B
695 - 794	C

- Incomplete - Must be previously agreed upon by student and instructor and initiated by the student administratively.
- Withdrawal - Must be initiated by the student administratively.

PERFORMANCE COMPONENTS

Critical Thinking Case Assignment:

As a team, you will write two (5 pages double spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman, 1 in margins) papers assessing the claims presented in two cases discussed in class and present your findings to the class. More information about the assignment will be given in class and will follow from the material presented in class.

Weekly Quizzes:

Each student will take 10 weekly quizzes throughout the semester. These quizzes will be completed on Fridays and cover the major take home points of what was discussed that week in class.

Class Attendance/Assignments:

Class attendance and participation is critical to your success in this course, just as it is critical for any future/current job. The attendance policy is simple: Come to class every day. Come to class on time. Come to class prepared. Complete in class assignments. More information is given below under course policies.

Peer Mentor Participation:

Ten percent of your grade will come from participation in the Peer Mentoring program for first year students taught by peer mentors, which includes the Friday class time in this signature course.

Lionizing Case Assignment/Presentation:

The Lionizing is a culminating event required of all sections of UNCO 1301. The instructor will determine the format of these presentations. Suggestions include poster presentations, short talks, installations, oral presentations and/or proposals, et cetera. Students will be present at the Lionizing to take questions about their work. For this course, as a team you will create and present a poster that describes a real life current event/case and the team's analysis of the claims being made following the training provided in the course and consistent with the type of analysis provided in the Critical Thinking Case Assignments discussed above. Although the assessment done at the event will not be graded, the assignment will be graded by

the instructor.

At the Lionizing a team of assessors will circulate the event with a rubric that will evaluate how well your project:

- o Demonstrates critical thinking
- o Demonstrates your understanding of your social responsibility
- o Demonstrates your excellent written and oral communication skills

This assessment will not influence your grade; instead, it helps the University College assess how well our Signature Courses are helping students meet important outcomes.

COURSE POLICIES

CLASS ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:

Attendance and participation are critical to gaining the most you possibly can from this course. You have hired me to teach you, trusting that I possess knowledge which you do not, and which is not available in a text alone. My assumption is that you desire to learn more about this subject, so my expectation is that you are: (1) present, (2) on time, (3) prepared, and (4) participating. Experience has shown me that students who regularly attend class earn higher grades.

For the online live sessions, if you were not able to attend live, to get credit for the day, you will listen to the previously recorded session and submit on D2L a 2-page double-spaced summary/integration/reflection of the live session.

Excused absences (e.g., university approved trips, documented illness, religious observance) will **not** be penalized as long as you notify me appropriately (i.e., before the class in question if possible and with the correct evidence). Otherwise, plan now to schedule your trip to Galveston during breaks and/or at the end of the semester. For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

SYLLABUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE STATEMENT:

I anticipate that we will follow the schedule I've outlined in this syllabus, but I may adjust based on what actually happens in class. I may also change the basis for the course grade (if I need to eliminate an assignment or something of that nature). If I do so, I will so inform you in writing. Remaining in the course after reading this syllabus will signal that you accept the syllabus as written AND the possibility of changes and responsibility for being aware of them.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Academic honesty is the foundation of the university community. Cheating, plagiarism, or other acts of academic dishonesty compromise the integrity of the academic process and community and are subject to disciplinary action. For this class, plagiarism will result in automatic failure (final course grade of F).

SPECIAL NEEDS/REASONABLE ACCOMODATIONS:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil

rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

TENETS OF COMMON BEHAVIOR STATEMENT:

All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)

Students are required to meet the expectations listed below.

o **Professional Behavior:** It is important that you maintain a professional demeanor at all times, including during “electronic communication”. Texas A&M-Commerce expects this from you, as do current and future employers.

o **Regular and Timely Attendance and Participation:** You are expected to log onto eCollege regularly and attend all classes.

o **Assignments:**

1. Submitted assignments must be correctly formatted and free of grammatical and stylistic errors.

Students in this course should have at least some skill with software for word processing, spreadsheets, databases, graphics, and presentations, and with web browsers and search engines. Spelling and grammatical errors will detract from your grade!

2. Assignments must be turned in on time. Assignments are due at the **date** and **time** listed. While the syllabus designates specific dates for which work is assigned, you do not have to wait until the “assigned” date to start working on it. Start working on each assignment as soon as you possibly can and make sure that you have all assignments submitted by the specified due dates. However, you **MUST** turn in all written assignments **ON TIME**. Unexcused late work will receive an automatic **50% penalty** if turned in by the next day, and a **0** if turned in more than one day late. Late work is viewed as very unprofessional in the corporate world: “Sorry Mr./Ms. Vice President, I just did not get the work done in time for our meeting today.” That will be the last time your manager gives you the opportunity to “shine” in front of a VP.

3. Assignments must be complete. You must complete and submit all components at the specified due date and time to receive credit for the assignment. Please don’t turn in work that is only “half-finished” or you will receive an automatic 0.

4. Please submit assignments in a format that is compatible with Microsoft Word.

o **Back-ups Are Required:** You are required to back up all your assignments so that they can be submitted to me upon my request. If work is lost due to insufficient back-up, you will not have the opportunity to recreate and submit at a later time.

o **E-mail:** Students must routinely check e-mail sent to his or her **Texas A&M-Commerce account**. This is my primary mechanism for communicating to the class. I check my e-mail several times a day, so this is the best way to reach me.

o **Make-up Assignments Will Only Be Accepted If You Obtain University Approved Documentation for Your Excuse:** There are no make-up assignments for poor performance on a previous assignment.

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace (D2L), please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace [D2L], please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the Live Chat or click on the words "click here" to submit an issue via email.

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

IF YOU EVER FEEL AS IF YOU NEED TO MEET WITH ME OR SPEAK OVER THE PHONE IN ORDER TO CLARIFY ASSIGNMENTS, DISCUSS CONCERNS ABOUT THE CLASS, DISCUSS TOPICS FROM THE CLASS, ETC., E-MAIL ME IN ORDER TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT.

FINALLY: This syllabus is a contract between you and me. If you disagree with the policies set forth in this syllabus, you have the right to withdraw within the timeframe indicated in the University calendar. By staying enrolled in this class, you agree to adhere to **all** policies stated in this syllabus.

Tentative Schedule

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
	Mentoring Friday info: 9/2: Un-Coding College: Secrets to a successful first year 9/23: Bringing my university life balance 10/14: My most epic fail: building failure immunity 11/11: Choosing your major and planning for your life 12/2: Money \$marts	
Aug 29	Intro to Course and Critical Thinking	Become familiar w/ course from the syllabus and log in to D2L / Form Teams
Aug 31	Plato & the Nature of Reality	In class Assignments
Sep 2	Lab Day #1: Mentoring Friday 1	Quiz #1 (taken online)
Sep 5	NO CLASS!!	
Sep 7	Nature of Science	In class Assignments
Sep 9	Lab Day #2	Feedback on proposed case using for Final Poster
Sep 12	Nature of Science	In class Assignments
Sep 14	Nature of Science	In class Assignments
Sep 16	Lab Day #3	Quiz #2
Sep 19	Nature of Science	In class Assignments
Sep 21	Nature of Science	In class Assignments
Sep 23	Lab Day #4: Mentoring Friday 2	Quiz #3 (taken online)
Sep 26	Limits to Perception & Memory	In class Assignments
Sep 28	Limits to Perception & Memory	In class Assignments
Sep 30	Lab Day #5	
Oct 3	Limits to Perception & Memory	In class Assignments
Oct 5	Limits to Perception & Memory	In class Assignments
Oct 7	Lab Day #6	Quiz #4
Oct 10	Limits to Perception & Memory	In class Assignments
Oct 12	Limits to Perception & Memory	In class Assignments
Oct 14	Lab Day #7: Mentoring Friday 3	Quiz #5 (taken online)
Oct 17	Critical Thinking and the Unknown	In class Assignments
Oct 19	Critical Thinking and the Unknown	In class Assignments
Oct 21	Lab Day #8	Quiz #6
Oct 24	Critical Thinking and the Unknown	In class Assignments
Oct 26	Critical Thinking and the Unknown	In class Assignments
Oct 28	Lab Day #9	Critical Thinking Case Assignment # 1 Practice/PP help Quiz #7
Oct 31	Critical Thinking Case Assignment # 1 Group Presentations	5 teams @ 10 min each
Nov 2	Critical Thinking Case Assignment # 1 Group Presentations	5 teams @ 10 min each
Nov 4	Lab Day #10	Critical Thinking Case Assignment #1 Writing Help
Nov 7	Critical Thinking and the Unknown	Critical Thinking Case Written

		Assignment #1 Due by 10 AM; In class Assignments
Nov 9	Critical Thinking and the Unknown	In class Assignments
Nov 11	Lab Day #11: Mentoring Friday 4	Quiz #8 (taken online)
Nov 14	Thinking Critically about CAM	In class Assignments
Nov 16	Thinking Critically about CAM	In class Assignments
Nov 18	Critical Thinking Case Assignment # 2 Group Presentations	5 teams @ 10 min each
Nov 21	Critical Thinking Case Assignment # 2 Group Presentations	5 teams @ 10 min each
Nov 23	NO CLASS	
Nov 25	NO CLASS	
Nov 28	Thinking Critically about CAM	Critical Thinking Writing Assignment # 2 Due by 10 AM Today!
Nov 30	Thinking Critically about CAM	In class Assignments
Dec 2	Lab Day #12: Mentoring Friday 5	Quiz #9 (taken online)
Dec 5	Thinking Critically about the world	In class Assignments
Dec 7	Thinking Critically about the world	In class Assignments
Dec 9	Last Lab Day!	Quiz #10 & Final Poster Help/Feedback
Dec 14	Lionizing Day 3-5pm	