



GSCB 402 – Innovative Design for Problem-Solving

COURSE SYLLABUS: Term:

Year:

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:

Office Location: Online, Remote

Office Hours: Email, Telephone, or Virtual by Appointment

Office Phone:

University Email Address:

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24 Hours or Less

Instructor Notes:

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

Students will be oriented to address the following questions: what problem in the world do I want to be part of the solution to, and how am I, myself, a problem to be solved? In this course, students will research a problem related their aspiring career interests. Students will also learn to overcome obstacles that may limit a growth mindset personally and professionally.

Student Learning Outcomes

Completion of this course provides the student with the knowledge to:

1. Develop a growth mindset and work to create strategies to overcome failure
2. Interview professionals in their career of interest to learn about contemporary challenges and opportunities in the field
3. Demonstrate knowledge of academic honesty and APA citations
4. Demonstrate the ability to formulate a research question related to their future career of choice

5. Utilize scientific sources of information to describe a current problem in their future career of choice

General Studies (Competency-Based) Program

The Bachelor of General Studies – Competency Based (GSCB) degree is a program that allows students to use their various academic, professional, and personal experiences to explore potential career options. Students will take coursework that explores their strengths and teaches strategies to apply prior learning experiences to new career goals. Students will learn about leadership, problem-solving and the principles of design thinking, all while career options and ways to prepare for academic and career success.

Course Materials

This course has been designed using Open Educational Resources (OER) and/or materials that are available through the [Waters Library](#). All materials are embedded within the course or are accessible via the internet or accessible through the Waters Library resource portal. After taking the pretest, students are encouraged to bookmark, download, or save materials provided via the internet for use with assignments and projects in this class

Students may **elect** to purchase the course book, listed below, that explains course content in greater detail and is referenced over all four GSCB courses.

Burnett, B., & Evans, D. (2016). *Designing your life: How to build a well-lived, joyful life* (Illustrated ed.). Knopf.

<https://www.amazon.com/Designing-Your-Life-Well-Lived-Joyful/dp/1101875321>

Regular and Substantive Course Interaction

As a general guide, students enrolled in a three-semester hour course should spend one hour engaged in instructional activities and two to three hours on out-of-class work per week in a traditional semester. Students are expected to double this effort of engagement given that this course is being delivered in a seven-week term. Educational activities in this course are designed to ensure regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty to ensure that students are able to demonstrate competency.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed: Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Instructional Methods: This course is an online course. To be successful in this course, all content and course modules should be read and reviewed. All assignments and quizzes (both graded and not graded) must be completed. Please contact the instructor by email for any assistance.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course: To be successful in this course, all content and course modules should be read and reviewed. All assignments and quizzes (both graded and not graded) should be completed. Please contact the instructor by email for any assistance.

ASSESSMENT

Students must achieve 80% or higher on the module post-tests, module projects and culminating project to demonstrate competency. Students must complete identified module projects and course activities (identified in “Learning Object Reflections or Projects or Essays”) with a score of 80% or

higher to access and submit final project. This course, specifically, uses a variety of assignments which requires the student to apply the principles of life design career planning and research. This is accomplished through reflection, investigation, brainstorming and research. Therefore, projects and activities may be different than what students experience in other competency-based courses.

Course Pre-test

There is no course pre-test for GSCB 402.

Learning Objective Projects or Essays

An assessment at the end of each module is intended to emphasize key concepts, theories, processes, etc., introduced in the Learning Objective Module. For this course, this is accomplished through reflective writing assignments. Writing assignments are submitted to the instructor and do not require comments or “discussion” with other students in the course.

Some modules have additional assignments (explained within the courses shell) and are listed below. All identified activities and assignments in this section are required for the course and must earn an 80% or higher to upload the course final project and access the course post-test. All assignments and activities below are factored into a student’s final grade for the course and are components of the final culminating project.

Content	Description	Value	Notes
Plagiarism Certificate	Online training session which requires identifying various types of plagiarism and offers insight on how to avoid.	25 points	Required and you must score 80% or higher. You have up to three attempts. DUE DATE: Last day of week 7, Friday by 11:59 PM CST
APA Citation Quiz	Module 3 mastery test on APA citation formatting and plagiarism recognition.	50 points	Required and you must score 80% or higher. You have up to three attempts. DUE DATE: Last day of week 7, Friday by 11:59 PM CST
Prototype Conversation	Synopsis of a meeting to discuss your research questions or interests with someone in the field.	25 points	Required and you must score 80% or higher. You have up to three attempts. DUE DATE: Last day of week 7, Friday by 11:59 PM CST

Course Post-test

There is no course post-test.

Culminating Project

The project assesses your knowledge of terms, course themes, and the application of concepts presented in this course. A **score of 80% or higher is required** to demonstrate competency. **DUE DATE if you want feedback for revisions: End of week 6. HARD DUE DATE: Last day of week 7, Friday by 11:59 PM CST.**

If students score less than 80% on any section of the culminating project, they will have an opportunity to review the material and resubmit the project up to two additional times. All components of the final project must be submitted and receive a grade of 80% or higher. If any section of the

culminating project is less than 80% within three attempts, students will receive a grade of F in the course and will be required to retake the course in the new term.

Content	Description	Value	Notes
Final Project (Paper & Short Presentation)	Measures your competency of learning outcomes through the completion of a competency-based project.	200 points	Required and you must score 80% or higher. You have up to three attempts. DUE DATE if you want feedback for revisions: End of week 6. HARD DUE DATE: Last day of week 7, Friday by 11:59 PM CST
Project Components			
Content	Description	Value	Notes
Research Project Component 1	Students will investigate and then propose a research question they want to learn more about related to their career. This will frame research plans for the course.	25 points	Required and you must score 80% or higher. You have up to three attempts. DUE DATE if you want feedback for revisions: End of week 6. HARD DUE DATE: Last day of week 7, Friday by 11:59 PM CST
Research Project Component 2	Students will research and synthesize the discourse around their problem, issue or trend. This research should inform next steps and information considered in formulating proposed solutions.	50 points	Required and you must score 80% or higher. You have up to three attempts. DUE DATE if you want feedback for revisions: End of week 6. HARD DUE DATE: Last day of week 7, Friday by 11:59 PM CST
Research Project Component 3	After forming a research question, gathering data, and synthesizing information from various sources, students will write a formal paper which discusses the issue/trend and proposes ways to address or solve.	75 points	Required and you must score 80% or higher. You have up to three attempts. DUE DATE if you want feedback for revisions: End of week 6. HARD DUE DATE: Last day of week 7, Friday by 11:59 PM CST
Research Project Component 4	Students will submit a short presentation highlighting the major findings of their research.	50 points	Required and you must score 80% or higher. You have up to three attempts. DUE DATE if you want feedback for revisions: End of week 6. HARD DUE DATE: Last day of week 7, Friday by 11:59 PM CST

GRADING

A score of 80% or higher on both the Culminating Project and module projects must be completed with an 80% or higher to submit the final project. All items will be used to calculate the final grade in the course.

Item	Value
Plagiarism Certificate	25 pts
APA Citation Quiz	25 pts
Prototype Conversation	50 pts
Culminating Project/Presentation	200 pts
Total Points	300 points

Grading Scale

A = 270 - 300 points (90-100%)

B = 240-269.9 points (80%-89.9%)

F = 239 points or below (<79%)

Acceleration Process

Students enrolled in competency-based education courses in the College of Innovation and Design are permitted to accelerate from one CBE course to another during a seven-week academic term under certain conditions. The request to accelerate from one course to another must be initiated by the student upon successful completion of currently enrolled CBE courses. Students are responsible for maintaining communication with faculty and their assigned advisor(s) throughout the acceleration process. Students who fail a course or who drop/withdraw from a CBE course are not eligible for acceleration. Student may only request permission to accelerate in one course at a time. Request to accelerate is initiated and completed by 5:00 pm CST on the fifth Friday of a seven-week academic term.

Process

1. Student successfully completes all required coursework in their CBE courses(s) with a grade of "A" or "B."
2. Student receives emailed verification from the assigned instructor that the course has been satisfactorily completed (Grade of A or B only).
3. Student contacts assigned advisor to provide proof of completion and discuss eligibility for acceleration into another course.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

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>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

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.

Technical Support

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>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

This is an online course; therefore, expect most communication to be online as well. If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). The instructor will make every effort to respond to emails within 24 provided the correspondence follows the requirements listed below. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

All emails from students should include:

- **Course name and subject in the subject line (ex. GSCB 402 – Project)**
- **Salutation**
- **Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)**
- **Student name and CWID after the body of the email**

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Student Conduct

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](#).

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

Academic Integrity

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

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

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

CID Policy on Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, complicity in cheating, multiple submissions (or substantial portions) of the same work for credit without authorization, submitting another's work, plagiarism, submitting algorithmically (AI) plagiarized work, and other acts that may reasonably be called academic dishonesty.

- Students who commit academic dishonesty will receive a grade of 0 for the assignment in the course and be issued a Written Warning that is reported to the CID Assistant Dean's office and listed in a database.
- If the student does NOT have a previous Written Warning for academic dishonesty reported in CID courses and has additional attempts available for the assignment, the student may resubmit the assignment (this applies to CBE courses only).
- If the student has a Written Warning of academic dishonesty reported in CID courses, the student may NOT resubmit the assignment, and the instructor will follow the procedure detailed in [Policy 13.99.99.R0.03](#) for Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty and report the incident to the Provost Office.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

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

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.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

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

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.

COURSE OUTLINE

Learning Objectives and Competencies	Materials to Read or Review	Assignments
SLO 1: Develop a growth mindset and work to create strategies to overcome failure	Burnett & Evans, Ch. 1-2 Introduction to Designing Your Life (video)	Module Project 1- Failure Resiliency
SLO 2: Interview professionals in their career of interest to learn about contemporary challenges and opportunities in the field	Module 2	-Career Prototype
SLO 3: Demonstrate knowledge of academic honesty and APA citations.	Module 3- APA citation	-APA Citation Quiz - Plagiarism Certificate - Final project components
SLO 4 Demonstrate the ability to formulate a research question related to their future career of choice	"Future of Work" presentation "Future of Work" articles	-Final project component 1 -Module project 2
SLO 5: Utilize scientific sources of information to describe a current problem in their future career of choice	- Emotional Intelligence and Johari's Window presentation	-Final project components -Module project 3