



EAST TEXAS A&M

UNIVERSITY

BAAS 301 - Pathways, Purpose, Exploration and Career (Honors)

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025
16 Week Session

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Jennifer Hudson

Office Location: Remote

Office Hours: Email to schedule phone or virtual conversation

University Email Address: Jennifer.Hudson@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Weekday emails will receive a response within 24 hours. Emails sent on weekends and holidays will receive a reply on the following business day.

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required

Burnett, B., & Evans, D. (2021). Designing Your New Work Life: How to Thrive and Change and Find Happiness--and a New Freedom--at Work. Vintage.

You are welcome to purchase the book or access free through the ETAMU library electronic resources. Please note [that this link](#) will help you access the book, but the license is restricted to a single user at a time.

Supplemental Materials

Links and files will be provided in the document sharing tab within the course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will apply life design methodology to research, discover, and activate their purpose through intentional career exploration. Through creative inquiry, students will investigate effective career development approaches while leveraging AI tools to be collaborative partners in their process. Students will research career fields, prototype professional experiences through a micro-internship, and develop a digital portfolio using Adobe Creative Cloud to tell their story. This course emphasizes hands-on experimentation, purposeful reflection, and the development of action-oriented career launching strategies.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Apply the life design process (acceptance, inquiry, ideate, prototype, test) to conduct original research into career pathways aligned with personal purpose and strengths.
2. Design and implement a career prototypes through a micro-internship, informational interviews, and skill-building projects, documenting insights gained through structured reflections.
3. Develop a comprehensive understanding of industry requirements and opportunities through research-based investigation and professional engagement.
4. Synthesize research findings and prototype experiences into an actionable career launch plan with specific, measurable steps for implementation.
5. Create a professional digital portfolio using Adobe Creative Cloud that effectively communicates personal purpose, professional experiences, and career-ready competencies.

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

- Module Journals (25%)
- Odyssey Planning Presentation (15%)
- Micro-Internship Experience (25%)
- Final Portfolio Presentation (35%)

Participation: Your active, informed participation is essential for doing well in this course and designing your life. There will be opportunities to engage with your peers and with your instructor. Please take advantage of all your resources and opportunities as they represent themselves.

Module Journals (25%)

You will complete four reflective journal entries (400-500 words each) that guide you through the life design process. These journals focus on self-assessment using the Love-Play-Work-Health Dashboard, values exploration through True North exercises, skills identification via career assessments, and leadership development through "Start with Why" reflection. Each journal builds upon previous learning and requires you to connect personal insights to career planning and professional development.

Odyssey Planning Presentation (15%)

Students create and present three distinct 5-year life plans that explore different possible futures: a current path projection, a pivot scenario, and a dream/wild card option. This creative presentation exercise encourages expansive thinking about career possibilities, helps you recognize assumptions about their future, and develops comfort with uncertainty while making intentional choices about their direction.

Micro-Internship Experience (25%)

Using design thinking methodology, students identify a problem in their field of interest and complete a 24-hour professional project that addresses this challenge. The experience includes developing a detailed proposal with learning outcomes tied to NACE competencies, executing the project with a site supervisor, and receiving professional evaluation. This real-world application allows students to prototype career experiences and develop job-ready skills.

Final Professional Portfolio Website (35%)

Students create a comprehensive online portfolio that strategically showcases their skills, experiences, and readiness to contribute to their chosen field. The website must demonstrate skills integration, technological awareness, micro-internship outcomes, a professional mission statement, and include a written reflection on design choices. This capstone project serves as a professional tool for career launch and demonstrates mastery of program learning outcomes.

GRADING SCALE

A = 90%-100%
B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F = 59% or below

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

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

Learning Management System (LMS) Requirements:

View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).

LMS Browser Support:

Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

Visit the [Virtual Classroom Requirements Webpage](#).

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@etamu.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 ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

Interaction with Instructor Statement

This is an online course; therefore, expect most communication to be online as well. 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. BAAS 301 – Journal)
- 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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty Policy](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

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

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M 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.

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

Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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 [their website](#).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Any changes to the following course outline will be announced in advance. Each week will have readings, journals, activities, and or assignments due. First day of the semester is **Monday, August 25**. All weekly content must be completed **by Sunday at 11:59 PM Central Standard Time**. The following module will open the following **Monday morning at 12:01 AM EST**. The final day of the semester is **Friday, December 12**.

16-Week Course Schedule

WEEKS 1-2: Design Thinking & Future of Work

Theme: Course Orientation & Life Design Introduction

- **Week 1** (Aug 25): Course introduction, design thinking overview, Love/Health/Work/Play Dashboard activity
- **Week 2** (Sep 1): Future of work trends, technology disruption discussion
- **Due Week 2:** Journal #1 - "You Are Here" reflection

WEEKS 3-4: Wayfinding & Planning

Theme: Values Exploration & Future Visioning

- **Week 3** (Sep 8): True North brainstorm, begin Odyssey Planning, micro-internship design thinking workshop
- **Week 4** (Sep 15): Complete Odyssey Plans, values-career alignment
- **Due Week 3:** Micro-Internship Proposal
- **Due Week 4:** Journal #2 - True North & Values reflection

WEEKS 5-6: Self-Discovery & Career Exploration

Theme: Skills Assessment & Industry Investigation

- **Week 5** (Sep 22): Focus2 Career Assessment, degree plan review
- **Week 6** (Sep 29): Informational interview preparation, networking strategies
- **Due Week 5:** Odyssey Planning Presentation
- **Due Week 6:** Journal #3 - Skills & Career Assessment reflection

WEEKS 7-8: Leadership & Professional Identity

Theme: Leadership Development & Professional Branding

- **Week 7** (Oct 6): Leadership theories, personal leadership style assessment
- **Week 8** (Oct 13): "Start with Why" exploration, mission statement development

- **Due Week 8:** Journal #4 - Leadership & "Starting with Why" reflection

WEEKS 9-10: Micro-Internship Launch

Theme: Professional Experience Implementation

- **Week 9** (Oct 20): Micro-internship kickoff, project management strategies
- **Week 10** (Oct 27): Mid-internship check-in, problem-solving session

WEEKS 11-12: Micro-Internship Completion

Theme: Professional Project Execution

- **Week 11** (Nov 3): Continued micro-internship work, peer consultation
- **Week 12** (Nov 10): Micro-internship completion, supervisor evaluation submission

WEEKS 13-14: Portfolio Development

Theme: Digital Portfolio Creation & Technology Integration

- **Week 13** (Nov 17): Adobe Creative Cloud training, website design principles
- **Week 14** (Nov 24): *THANKSGIVING WEEK* - Independent portfolio work

WEEKS 15-16: Final Portfolio & Reflection

Theme: Professional Presentation & Future Planning

- **Week 15** (Dec 1): Portfolio peer review, final revisions, technology trends discussion
 - **Week 16** (Dec 8): Final presentations, course reflection, career launch planning
 - **Due Week 16:** Final Professional Portfolio Website & Written Reflection
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