Connections III: Cultural Contexts Workshop/SPDA 4021.501

Instructor Information

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Office Hours are Thursday, 4:30 – 5:30, or by appointment.

Course Description, Structure, and Objectives

Description

Project-based learning lab focuses on real solutions to a problem. Once a problem is identified, student teams develop and demonstrate their understanding of the problem by proposing multiple design responses. During the iteration phase, one design response is generated, including further design, construction of a prototype, and testing with end-users.

Structure

The focus is on building students' ability to develop creative, realistic, tangible solutions to sometimes complex problems through teamwork. Once a solution is agreed upon, the student must decide how to realize that solution with a product or service. Attention then turns to designing and developing a product prototype or a detailed service definition. When completed, students/teams may present their solutions to the class.

Objectives

Students will learn to apply these principles to real-world problems and develop the skills necessary to become project designers.
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- **Collaborate** with peers and partners on multi-stage projects
- **Design** processes and/or products that address organization, community, and/or institution needs
- Apply appropriate methods of **analysis** to enable well-informed decision-making.
- **Communicate** complex information to a variety of audiences using a variety of modes and methods.

Required/Recommended Materials

There is no required textbook. All required readings will be available through the UNT Library.

How to Succeed in this Course

One trait that contributes to success is creating relationships. I am here to mentor you through your academic career and beyond. I welcome the opportunity to meet with you; a scheduled meeting works well for pre-defined items, but impromptu meetings are strongly encouraged. *Connect with me through*

email and/or by attending office hours. During busy times, my inbox becomes full, so if you contact me and are waiting to receive a response within two business days, please send a follow-up email. A gentle nudge is always appreciated.

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter for faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodation at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and meet with each faculty member before implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website (http://www.unt.edu/oda). You may also contact ODA at (940) 565-4323.

Supporting Your Success and Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment

I value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with me to create a classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates are encouraged, personal attacks are unacceptable. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please stop by my office and let me know. We are all learning together.

Every student in this class should have the right to learn and engage within an environment of respect and courtesy from others. We will discuss our classroom's habits of engagement and I also encourage you to review UNT's student code of conduct so that we can all start with the same baseline civility understanding (Code of Student Conduct) (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct)

Assessing Your Work

A = 900-1000
B = 800-899
C = 700-799
D = 600-699
F = 500-599
Assessments are based on four major criteria:
Communication (20%)
Critical Thinking (20%)
Social Responsibility (20%)
Design (40%)

Course Requirements/Schedule

Modules

Topic	Points Possible	% of Final Grade
Syllabus	0 pts.	0%
Project Definition/Project Framing	100 pts.	10%
Case Studies/Research	100 pts.	10%
Ideation	100 pts.	10%
Prototyping	100 pts.	10%
Refinement/Storytelling	100 pts.	10%
Grit	100 pts.	10%
Curiosity	100 pts.	10%
Optimism	100 pts.	10%
Humility	100 pts.	10%
Project Management	100 pts.	10%

Late Work is only accepted with prior discussion. You will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class and describe that the calendar is subject to change, citing the Emergency Notifications and Procedures Policy (PDF) (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-049). Also, describe the standards for academic integrity in the course, citing the Academic Integrity Policy (PDF) (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-049).

Grades are based on mastery of the content. As a rule, I do not grade on a "curve" because that is a comparison of your outcomes to others. However, I encourage you to find opportunities to learn with and through others. Explore Navigate's Study Buddy (https://navigate.unt.edu) tool to join study groups. Maximize your learning with our coaching staff at the Learning Center. Focus on areas where you struggle in this course by attending scheduled study group sessions with me the week before each exam. Forward together!

Attendance and Participation

Research has shown that students who attend classes are more likely to be successful. You should attend every class unless you have a university-excused absence such as active military service, a religious holy day, or an official university function, as stated in the Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy (PDF) (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039). Please let me know if you cannot attend a class due to an emergency. Your safety and well-being are important to me.

Student Support Services & Policies

In addition to standards for success in courses, I feel UNT policies and procedures are professional standards worth integrating into your life. You can access these policies in Navigate (Navigate.unt.edu), in Canvas under the Help menu, in EIS, and on the Student Support Services & Policies page. I encourage you to read and absorb these essential processes.