



Applied Strategic Design/SPDA 4030/501

Instructor Information

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Office Hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 12:00 – 1:00 or by appointment.

Course Description, Structure, and Objectives

Description

Explores **future-oriented design principles** that help organizations become more **innovative** and **competitive**, such as **forecasting** and **futures** thinking to address current or future challenges.

Strategic design is the application of design principles to the development of long-term strategies for organizations. It is a process that involves understanding the organization's current situation, identifying opportunities for improvement, and developing and implementing a plan to achieve those opportunities.

Strategic design is a relatively new field, but it is growing in popularity as organizations recognize the value of design in helping them to achieve their goals. Strategic designers use a variety of tools and techniques to help organizations to think strategically about their future, including:

- **Futures thinking:** Strategic designers use futures thinking to identify emerging trends and opportunities. They use this information to help organizations to develop strategies that will allow them to stay ahead of the competition.
- **Design thinking:** Strategic designers use design thinking to solve problems and create new products and services. They use this approach to involve stakeholders in the design process and to create solutions that are both innovative and effective.
- **Prototyping:** Strategic designers use prototyping to test and refine their ideas. They create prototypes of new products and services to get feedback from users and to make sure that their ideas are feasible.

Structure

Strategic design is a valuable tool for organizations that want to achieve their goals and stay ahead of the competition. By using design principles to develop long-term strategies, organizations can create a competitive advantage that will help them to succeed in the future.

Here are some of the benefits of strategic design:

- **Increased innovation:** Strategic design can help organizations to be more innovative by providing a framework for identifying and solving problems.
- **Improved efficiency:** Strategic design can help organizations to be more efficient by streamlining processes and reducing waste.



- **Enhanced customer experience:** Strategic design can help organizations to provide a better customer experience by creating products and services that are more user-friendly and intuitive.
- **Increased profitability:** Strategic design can help organizations to be more profitable by increasing sales and reducing costs.

Objectives

Students will learn to apply these principles to real-world problems and develop the skills necessary to become strategic designers.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the role of design in shaping the future.
- Apply futures thinking and forecasting models to identify and address emerging trends, applying appropriate analysis methods to inform decisions.
- Design for innovation, sustainability, and social impact
- Communicate complex design solutions to a diverse audience using appropriate methods and modalities effectively.

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 rather full, so if you contact me and do not 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 first 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 accommodations 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. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must 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](http://www.unt.edu/oda) 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)) (<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

Due Date	Topic	Assignment Due	Points Possible	% of Final Grade
9/3	<i>Syllabus</i>	<i>Syllabus Quiz</i>	<i>0 pts.</i>	<i>0%</i>
	<i>Spimes</i>	<i>Essay</i>	<i>100 pts.</i>	<i>10%</i>
9/10	<i>Observation</i>	<i>Drawing</i>	<i>100 pts.</i>	<i>10%</i>
9/14	<i>Loneliness</i>	<i>In-Class</i>	<i>100 pts.</i>	<i>10%</i>
9/17	<i>Industrial Rev.</i>	<i>Essay</i>	<i>100 pts.</i>	<i>10%</i>
9/21	<i>MIT Initiative</i>	<i>In-Class</i>	<i>100 pts.</i>	<i>10%</i>
9/28	<i>Ethics</i>	<i>In-Class</i>	<i>100 pts.</i>	<i>10%</i>
10/5	<i>Capstone</i>	<i>Drawing</i>	<i>100 pts.</i>	<i>10%</i>
10/12	<i>Capstone</i>	<i>Writing</i>	<i>100 pts.</i>	<i>10%</i>
10/29	<i>Capstone</i>	<i>Drawings</i>	<i>100 pts.</i>	<i>10%</i>
	<i>Participation</i>		<i>100 pts.</i>	<i>10%</i>

No Late Work is accepted without 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) (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) (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. I do, however, encourage you to find opportunities to learn with and through others. Explore [Navigate’s Study Buddy](https://navigate.unt.edu) (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 are struggling 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) (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 important processes.