



Applied Seminar II: AMDS 3010.520 –

Practicing Best Practices

Term: Fall 2025

Professor: Kevin D. Sanders

Office Phone: 972-668-7191

Course Times: Thursday 11:00am-1:50pm

Classroom: FRLD 230

Pronouns: He/Him

Office Hours: By appointment – via Navigate

1:1 w/ Professor Sanders

Course Description

PDA Applied Seminar is a critical component of the Project-Based Curriculum/Cohort Program in which personal and professional development will be the primary focus.

Learning Outcomes

- Recognize how your personal strengths can contribute to academic and career success.
- Understand the basics of leadership styles and how they contribute team performance.
- Identify the traits and characteristics of an effective team.
- Introduce the concept of a personal brand, and the impact of brand on job performance (or prospects?)
- Develop understanding of things outside of personal control that impact job performance and fit.

Required Resources

- Podcast: Adam Grant, How to be a Better Human
- Book: Kevin Leman & William Pentak, The Way of the Shepherd

Course Policies and Procedures

Student Requiring Special Accommodation:

If you have a condition that requires accommodation in this course, please notify the instructor during the first week of class. Any necessary or appropriate accommodations will be made provided that timely notice is received, and that the arrangement is consistent with recommendations from Disability Services, when applicable. Students who require this type of assistance should contact the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) at (940) 565-4323, or at TTY (940) 369-8652 to make appropriate arrangements. Information on the services provided by the ODA as well as application procedures is available at <https://disability.unt.edu/services/apply>. Information on UNT's policies related to disability accommodations is available at <http://policy.unt.edu/policy/18-1-14>. Please note that disability accommodations are not retroactive. Accommodations will be made only after a disability is officially verified.

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Course Communication:

Communication with Instructor:

Email: If you have any questions or concerns with the class or coursework, PLEASE INITIATE COMMUNICATION IN A TIMELY MANNER. The best and most appropriate way to communicate with me outside of class is via email – kevin.sanders@unt.edu.

Canvas: I will post all assignments, grades, announcements, and class notes to the course Canvas page. Assignments and due dates will be provided at the beginning of the semester and may be updated or altered throughout the semester. Important announcements and updates will be posted under the “Announcements” section. Class notes will be posted in the “Discussion” section. I suggest checking the course Canvas page on a regular basis.

Course Evaluations:

Student’s evaluations of teaching effectiveness are required for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester via your campus email, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching.

Bad Weather Policy:

When university officials think weather conditions pose a significant threat to the safety of students, faculty and staff who drive to campus, UNT will delay its opening time, close early or close for the day. The University administration will make every attempt to decide about the need for a delayed-opening or closure as early as possible.

Sometimes the university remains open during severe or winter weather conditions. When inclement weather conditions exist, visit www.unt.edu, check the UNT social media pages or listen for weather details on local media outlets before you begin driving to campus. You can also follow [@UNTEagleAlert](https://twitter.com/UNTEagleAlert) to get emergency updates in real time. Current UNT students should receive an Eagle Alert message notifying you that the university is closing or if the opening time is delayed.

Acceptable Student Behavior:

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students Office to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university’s expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/07.012_CodeOfStudConduct.Final8_19.pdf.

University Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty:

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Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures.

The University of North Texas is very clear on this point. Students must do their own work. Cheating on exams, quizzes, plagiarism, or any other form of scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Detailed explanations of the UNT's standards of academic integrity for students may be found in the UNT Policy Manual at <http://policy.unt.edu/policydesc/student-standards-academic-integrity-18-1-16>.

If it is determined that a student has cheated on an exam or has committed plagiarism, he or she will automatically fail that exam or assignment and a zero will be entered for the grade. The student will also be reported to UNT's Office of Academic Integrity.

Web-based Plagiarism Detection: Please be aware in some courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

Assignments & Grading

Assignment	Value (points)
Weekly Reflection Assignment (2pts each)	28
Discussion Posts (4pts each)	12
Time Management Assignment	10
Goal Setting Assignment	10
Resume Draft	20
360 Evaluation Assignment	40
Way of the Shepherd Assignment	40
Personal Branding Assignment	40
Final Project	100
Total	300

Attendance and Participation Policy:

Regular attendance and participation is expected and strongly encouraged. Students should read the assigned material and complete assignments **PRIOR** to attending the class and be prepared to discuss and ask questions. Students that are not present for the attendance check at the start of class will be considered late, and not receive full credit. If a student is **more than 15 minutes late** to class, they will be considered absent and charged with an absence. The instructor reserves the right to handle extenuating circumstances at their discretion. **Students that compile more than two (2) unexcused absences will be docked a full letter grade. Students that compile more than three (3) unexcused absences will receive an "F" for the course.**

If you are planning to be out for any reason, notify me via email ahead of time. Notification does not guarantee you an excuse, but rather allows for an explanation of your circumstances. Communicate and make connections with your classmates, and inform them about your absences so that they can help catch you up on work missed, tips, notes, etc.

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Assignment and Late Papers Policy:

If you are having difficulty completing an assignment or making a deadline, please reach out in advance. Professional, honest communication is extremely important and will serve you well if you master its use. If seeking an extension on any assignment or deadline, be prepared to have a detailed reasoning for the request. The instructor reserves the right to grant or deny an extension request.

Use of Canvas:

- I strongly encourage students to log on to Canvas at least once a week to prepare for class and make sure you are keeping up with your assignments as it will remind you of due dates.
- However, do not rely on Canvas to reveal your semester grade to you; you can keep up with your points based on the Grade Grid provided above.
- Messaging me through the Canvas inbox is not the best way to reach me; please do so by email, or you may experience a delay.

Active Participation:

It is not enough to simply show up to class—so along with attendance, your points are dependent on active, intentional, and engaged participation, meaning that I will focus on the quality and quantity of classroom participation. Therefore, attendance and consistent participation IS ESSENTIAL. In addition, you are expected to remain FULLY ENGAGED through class. This means no texting, no calling, no web searching, no social media use, no headphones or other media players, or other such distractions unless they are directly related to course assignments or activities for that particular day. Each class should be used as an opportunity to interact with the course content and connect with peers.

What constitutes an “A” for participation?

- You attend class every day and arrive on time.
- You ask questions to your peers about what they have shared in a respectful manner to seek deeper understanding about their opinions and points of views. You are open to the thoughts and ideas of others.
- You are engaged and attentive throughout class and in group activities.
- You remain for the entire class, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.
- You are cognizant of how much or how little you have participated in course discussion and actively work to address that issue.
- And above all, ALWAYS treat each other with respect, just as you would expect to be treated by your classmates

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Course Outline

Tentative Schedule	Date	Topic/Reading/Activities	Guest Speakers	
Module 1: Week 1-4	8/21	○ Syllabus Overview	(1) Goals & Time Management	
	8/28	○ Reviewing Internship #1 ○ Personal Assessment		(2) Discussion Post #1
	9/4	○ 360 Evaluation		(3) 360 Evaluation Assignment
	9/11	○ Goal Setting & Time Management ○ Professional Momentum ○ Updating Resume & Translating Experiences		(4) Resume Assignment
Module 2: Week 5-9	9/18	○ Defining Leadership	(5) Discussion Post #2 (6) The Way of the Shepherd Assignment Book: The Way of the Shepherd	
	9/25	○ Leadership Styles		
	10/2	○ Finding “Your” Voice		
	10/9	○ Humility & Grace ○ Criticism vs Critique		
	10/16	○ Social Change ○ Collectivism & Citizenship ○ Book Discussion		
Module 3: Weeks 10-14	10/23	○ Reputation vs Perception	(7) Discussion Post #3 (8) Personal Branding Assignment	
	10/30	○ Career Exploration		
	11/6	○ Leveraging Your Network		
	11/13	○ Winning the Interview ○ Future Proofing Career		
	11/20	○ Wellness & Self-Care ○ Tangibles vs Intangibles ○ Personal Branding		
Module 4: Week 15-16	12/4	○ Final Project	(9) Final Project	
	12/12			

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