Introduction to Research & Other Scholarly Activities
UCRS 3150
Hall Park - Fall 2019

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Office Location: Frisco Hall Park
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Credit Hours: 2 Hours
Class Day & Hours: As needed

Course Description:
Introduction to Research and Other Scholarly Activities Collaborative Thinking is a highly interactive class designed independent study class designed in the cohort program to solve real business challenges. The students in this class will apply the knowledge gained through the core classes of semester one (English, History, Psychology, Connections and Applied Seminar) to solve a business challenge for the City of Frisco.

This work in this class will be done as part of a project teams with the final deliverable to be a recommendation that will be presented to the City of Frisco board for implementation. The final grade of the project will be dependent on the acceptance of the recommendation for implementation.

Required Texts:
There is no required text for this class. The assumption is that learnings from all the classes that the students will be enrolled in as “audit classes” or regular classes for cohort 1 will apply while performing research providing recommendations for a real business challenge will be the focus of this class.

Course Goal:
By the end of the semester, students will demonstrate an understanding of taking a real business challenge and applying research, creating peer to peer comparison reports, developing a business case, storyboarding the solution, recommending an implementation plan and presenting it to the client by applying all the learnings from the knowledge gained in all the integrated classes of cohort 1 Fall 2019.

Student Learning Objectives.
1. The ability to perform research on the client and peer organizations to show how the client business needs compare to the similar (peer) or different organizations. How some of the best practices applied in peer organizations can help or hinder the client’s objectives.
2. Gain interviewing skills in working with numerous stakeholders from different organizations such as the client, peer organizations, service providers, etc. to
better understand business needs, gain insights, success, failures, etc. to define the project.

3. Learn to develop business cases based on client needs that appeal to both the business needs and personal needs of the key decision makers as well as aligned to the company’s mission, vision and goals. The business case should provide both quantitative and qualitative reasons for the solution that is being recommended.

4. Creating implementation planning documentation that accounts for all the learning from all the classes and the learning objectives from UCRS 3150 that can be left behind as a standalone report for the client.

5. Gain presenting skills for presenting the solution in a creative way that appeals to the stakeholders for both business and personal needs for implementation.

Attendance:
This is a highly applied class with short lecture and most of the time dedicated to team working on the project and discussions with the instructor. Regular attendance in this class will allow you to expand on the learning from other classes by brainstorming ideas, sharing research data, seeking guidance from the instructor as well as from each other.

20% of the final grade points will be allocated to attendance as listed in the grading section of this document.

Disability Statement:
The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of 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 accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Academic Integrity:
Academic integrity emanates from a culture that embraces the core values of trust and honesty necessary for full learning to occur. As a student-centered public research university, the University of North Texas promotes the integrity of the learning process
by establishing and enforcing academic standards. Academic dishonesty breaches the mutual trust necessary in an academic environment and undermines all scholarship. See UNT Policy 18.1.16.

Lack of academic integrity will not be tolerated in the class and the UNT academic integrity policy will be applied as applicable.

**UNT Policy link on Academic Integrity** –

https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf

**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 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 www.deanofstudents.unt.edu

**Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, and Assault**

UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. UNT’s Dean of Students’ website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs:

http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources.

**Recordings Policy:**

We encourage students to work in project teams with all kinds of innovative ways to learn, collaborate and present their work. Students can decide to make recordings of the lecture, projects, etc.
Posting videos or picture of the class or team work in the public domain is potentially a violation of Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) hence posting images or video recordings of either the professor or students is prohibited.

However, posting of videos on site and keeping the link private with written permission from all team members is allowed since video’s and pictures provides opportunities to learn and present in an advanced manner.

**Tests:**
There will be no tests for this class. Results and participation from in the History and English will apply as 20% of the grade from this class.

**Anchor Project:**
The city of Frisco has had false start on the scooters that are common in a lot of cities and the project for this class is to make recommendations to the City of Frisco on their next steps for implementation of local mobility in the form of bikes, scooters, etc.

The following article published in March 2019 summarizes the current situation in March 2019 at the City of Frisco. [https://www.dallasnews.com/news/frisco/2019/03/06/after-initial-ban-electric-scooters-frisco-consider-pilot-program](https://www.dallasnews.com/news/frisco/2019/03/06/after-initial-ban-electric-scooters-frisco-consider-pilot-program)

“The Frisco City Council is asking for more research into a potential pilot program allowing electric scooters in the city, almost four months after banning the devices from city sidewalks.

In a working session Tuesday, council members discussed under what circumstances the scooters would be permissible.

Bird Rides Inc., a company that provides scooters, dropped off at least 200 in Frisco in early December, prompting the city to collect all scooters and enact a temporary ban on Dec. 18.

"Frisco has a reputation for being innovative when it comes to mobility solutions," Mayor Jeff Cheney said in a prepared statement at the time. "However, collaboration and cooperation between our city and private businesses are 'musts'. We're not interested in 'trial and error.'"

According to local news site Community Impact, city staff on Tuesday suggested a yearlong pilot program that would regulate scooters, and said they had met with scooter companies Lime and Spin to discuss the project. Staff suggested requiring docking stations that would not be on sidewalks, a video for first-time users and a brick-and-mortar store presence, according to the news site.
Although council members expressed interest in the pilot program, Community Impact reported, council member Will Sowell said he didn't want to stifle transportation companies from operating in Frisco.

"If we’re doing this for a pilot, that’s great," Sowell said, according to the site. "I just don’t want to write an ordinance that makes it too hard for people to actually come in and do business."

A formal proposal on the pilot program will be presented to the council at a later, yet unscheduled date.”

**Grading:**
The following is the point structure for the final grades which is max of 1,000 points.
Attendance – 100 Points
Audit class participation such as English & History with Application – 200 Points
Anchor Project – 700 points
  - Research with data – 100 Points
  - Business Case Development – 100 Points
  - Implementation Plan – 100 Points
  - 1st 2 Presentations – 100 Points
  - Final Presentation – 100 Points
  - Final Paper – 100 Points
  - Final recommendation can be demonstrated to client or is in a state that can be published (Graded as yes or no by faculty other than Professor Ali – 100 Points)

**Timeline:**
The assignments listed below will be due at the end of the week based on the following timelines:

- Week 3 – Sep 9th – Research Report with pertaining data
- Week 6 – Sep 30th – Business Case Report
- Week 9 – Oct 21st – First cut of the presentation with mock presentation
- Week 11 – Nov 4th – Second cut of presentation to faculty and staff
- Week 15 – Dec 2nd – Presentation to City of Frisco
- Week 16 – Dec 11 – Final Paper