

Course Syllabus
LSCM 4860 – Advanced Logistics Management
Fall 2026

Instructor: Thomas Ryan Brindle, DSc

Clinical Associate Professor - Supply Chain Management

Program Director - B.S. in Industrial Distribution

University of North Texas

G. Brint Ryan College of Business

1307 W Highland Street

Denton, TX 76201

Cell: 972-585-8835

Email: thomas.brindle@unt.edu (please contact me via email rather than through Canvas)

Office Hours: TBA in-person and online by appointment

Required Text and Readings

No required text. Material and additional readings will be provided by the instructor during the semester.

Course Description

Application of logistics decision-making methods, processes, and tools as they apply to inventory, transportation, warehouse, and supply chain management. The course stresses hands-on application of technology-enabled finance and planning tools and methods useful in logistics; analysis of source, make, and delivery for product service/customer management; developing skills in performance management and analytics for technical logistics problems; and developing executive-level communications and project management skills leading to concise strategic and change management for demand-driven value. Prerequisite(s): LSCM 3960. This is a capstone course to be taken during the last term/semester of coursework.

Course Overview

This course is an important component of UNT's Core Curriculum. This course was designed to bridge the STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) and Business core courses (accounting, finance, management, information systems, and marketing) covered in the Logistics Program with key social and behavioral aspects to provide the students with a holistic and comprehensive understanding of how their degree program knowledge has human and societal impacts. As part of this capstone experience, students will focus on the application of empirical and scientific methods that contribute to the understanding of how the "human activity system" (issues of culture and world view and their impact on learning and working in engineering, science, and technology) impacts their STEM and Business knowledge. It is built on a fundamental that the successful development of STEM and Business knowledge is directly contingent on the human activity system. Case studies, academic research, and "real-world" project work are used to provide a practical and advanced understanding to:

- Build empirical and scientific constructs both at the application level and strategic level for integrating the human activity system as part of STEM and Business knowledge.
- Challenge the student to think of the human activity system as an integral part of STEM and Business knowledge, and how this may impact its strategy, operation, and function in industry and society.
- As an integral part of the core curriculum, while engaging in this course you will develop and demonstrate the core objectives of Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, and Empirical and Quantitative Skills.

Critical Thinking Skills including creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information. Leveraging STEM and Business core knowledge, students will have to demonstrate an understand of the purpose, process, interaction, integration, and emergence of the human activity system with a collective entity, its members, and how it serves its environment to the larger system in which it is embedded. This will be done

through “real-world” problem solving that engages industry in defining the problem and allows students to solve relevant and tangible problems with innovative solutions. These assignments will be executed as student teams and individuals using critical thinking tools to analyze and evaluate domain problems to present systemic solutions.

Communication Skills including effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication. Assignments and projects will utilize several communication mediums (physical and mechanical) to demonstrate an understanding of communication effectiveness. Each application of a communication medium will evaluate the students understanding of the strategic importance of communication; the communication process; communication within organizations; networked and directional communication flow; interpersonal communication; the roles of formal versus informal communication; communication media; communication technology; and nonverbal communication in the interpersonal communication process.

Empirical and Quantitative Skills including the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions. Assignments and projects will challenge students to manipulate raw data into forms that allow for effective data visualization. Human activity systems are more effective when data can be effectively communicated and presented within and to the human activity system. This includes the ability to identify the current state and effectively consider the impact of change. Student are taught to not only resolve problems but offer the human activity system understanding of the ramification of alternatives. Students will learn that the optimal solution may not be the best solution to the human activity system.

A. Books/Readings: Readings will be provided by the instructor. Experience strongly suggests you will learn much more (and thus perform better) in the class if you have completed the reading assignment before coming to class.

B. Discussions: You are encouraged to actively participate in the lectures. For example, if you are not clear about a concept being discussed in the class, please ask questions. I consider asking questions a very important form of class participation. Also, if you have an interesting experience or insight that either supports or contradicts the concept being discussed, please share it with the class. I believe in a “wisdom of the crowds” approach to in-class learning, where the instructor and the student become one on the same.

C. Case Studies and Multi-Media: We will use case studies and multi-media to pontificate about innovative thinking on topics related to this class. These discussions will give us, as a class, a chance to exhibit our thinking individually and collectively.

D. Class Attendance and Participation: I hold you responsible for all material covered during class, including changes to the syllabus, course schedule, and course materials. I will not supplement missed lecture material. If you must miss a class, you need to make the necessary arrangements to obtain any missed material or lecture notes from other students in the class. Class attendance is strongly encouraged because you will be called upon to answer questions, discuss case assignments, and to comment on key concepts. Missing these opportunities may result in a reduction in your final grade. Class participation and attendance cannot be made up without prior approval from the instructor.

You are strongly encouraged to attend every class. It is understood that circumstances beyond your control can impact perfect attendance, but every attempt should be made to come to class and be an engaged participant. Class participation will affect the case grades and your final grade. Participation will impact your grade, so you are expected to come to class prepared and fully prepared for the in-class case discussions. Case discussions require significant effort and should not be taken lightly. You may be called upon to provide an overview of the case, define the problem, identify key issues and themes, suggest alternatives, discuss the analysis, critique inputs, provide recommendations, and summarize the in-class discussion. If you are unable to attend a class, you must notify the professor prior to class via email with a brief explanation of why you cannot attend. The professor will take this into consideration to determine how your absence will impact your grade for any in-class assignments.

Assignments

Every assignment should be completed with a level of effort that you consider to be your BEST. As a Senior, you should fully understand what your BEST is. You should not complete an assignment based on what you think the

professor wants; you should deliver a product that represents your BEST effort and fulfills the requirements as specified. So, as long as you do your BEST, the grade does not matter, and you will get the grade you deserve.

Group Assignments

Group Assignments will focus on building and analyzing problems using skills necessary to perform or develop an understanding within your major program, as well as the Term Project. These assignments could require the use of word processing, spreadsheets, online media, poster paper, and markers... whatever it takes to do your best.

If you must miss the activities associated with completing these assignments within your group due to work or other unavoidable circumstances, you must contact the professor and the members of your group in advance. If the circumstances warrant it, the professor will schedule a makeup or provide an alternative for completing the assignment. These situations will occur on an exception basis and must be justified on valid circumstances. In order to be considered for the make-up, you must notify the professor and the group via email before the day the assignment is due, and receive via email permission from the professor and the group that this will be acceptable. Failure to provide notification will result in a failing grade for the assignment.

NT Logistics Case Competition/Term Project

Project teams (TBD based on the number of students) will work on a topic defined by NT Logistics executives to address a “real” industry problem. While engaging the problem through the lens of the human activity system, students will be required to:

- Apply analytical tools useful in logistics
- Analyze the characteristics of a logistics system and its interrelationships within a company and its human activity system
- Demonstrate skills to analyze technical logistics problems
- Demonstrate executive-level communications skills leading to the concise statement of problems and proposed solutions

The team’s performance will be evaluated based on a Project Charter, NT Logistics Coaching Session, Project Review, Triage Review, Project Report, and Project Presentation. While this assignment is a team-based activity, individual performance will be considered. Each group member is to provide the professor with an evaluation of their individual performance and of each group member’s performance for the final report and presentation grades. This measure allows you to identify the level to which your group members have helped the group. This is your chance to identify and reward/penalize both excellent and poor performance of group members, as well as your own. This is the only grade measurement where you play a role in determining your own grade and that of your peers.

- Quality of work: The degree to which the student team member provides work that is accurate and complete.
- Timeliness of Work/Attendance: The team member's timeliness of work. Showed up as scheduled, completed tasks on time, attendance at the group meetings, etc.
- Task support: The amount of task supports the team member gives to other team members.
- Responsibility: The ability of the team member to carry out a chosen or assigned task, the degree to which the member can be relied upon to complete a task.
- Involvement: The extent to which the team member participates in the exchange of information and relates and communicates to other team members.
- Emotional/motivational support: Consider the amount of emotional/motivational support the member gives to other team members
- Leadership: Consider how the team member engages in leadership activities.
- Overall: The overall performance of the team member while in the group.
- Given the opportunity, I would have “fired” this person from our team
- I would want this person in my group again
- This person was the leader of the team
- This person took charge and did a lot of work, but I would not want to work for them.

Grading

A. Grading Scale

You will receive no less than the grade listed within the appropriate interval. I reserve the right to adjust the grading scale in favor of the class if warranted. The points assigned to each grade comply with the points identified in the UNT Catalog.

Letter Grade	Numeric Range	Grade Point
A	270-300	4.0
B	240-269	3.0
C	210-239	2.0
D	180-209	1.0
F	<180	0.0

ASSIGNMENT	Pts
INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS	70
<i>Group Formation Assignments</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Professional Development</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>SCM Knowledge Assessment</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Career Survey</i>	<i>10</i>
GROUP ASSIGNMENTS	60
<i>Facility Location and Design</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Transportation Network Design</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Data Visualization Analytics</i>	<i>20</i>
GROUP TERM PROJECT	170
<i>Project Charter</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>NT Logistics Coaching Session</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Project Review</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Triage Review</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Project Report</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>Project Presentation</i>	<i>30</i>
TOTAL	300

B. Assignment Requirements and Due Dates

You are expected to approach each assignment with the professionalism required in the “business” world by fulfilling your responsibilities and completing work on time. Work products should have a neat, professional appearance. The appearance of the submission will affect the grading – up to a 20% deduction for submissions deemed to be unprofessional in appearance.

Each assignment is due by the time specified in CANVAS. Any assignment may be submitted any time prior to the due date/time.

A 50% penalty will be assessed for submissions within 24 hours after the assignment is due (one day late). A 100% penalty will be assessed for submissions more than 24 hours after the assignment is due. Correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation are expected and will be considered in the grading of all assignments. The overall appearance and professionalism of the submission will also be considered in the grade.

C. Grading Appeals, Withdrawals, and Incompletes

If you disagree with how any assignment was graded, you must submit a written appeal by email or letter before the start of the next class period. The email or letter must clearly state the rationale for the appeal and provide evidence to support your position. For example, you may cite text references, PowerPoint slides, or outside readings to support your position—these must be clearly referenced by title and page number. The rationale should be objective in nature and should not include subjective opinions. Appeals that do not provide a supporting rationale and specific reference(s) to course materials will be returned without consideration.

Please refer to the UNT Catalog for policies governing Withdrawals and Incompletes. If you have any questions, please contact me for clarification. Please note: UNT only allows the use of incomplete for extraordinary circumstances. An incomplete grade will not be used simply to provide more time to complete the course requirements.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the professor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, discussion groups, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. The bottom line is that supply chain management is conducted by professionals. I expect no less of you.

Course Schedule

Below is a proposed schedule, but this schedule will adjust to accommodate class progress, more in-depth discussion where warranted, or to take advantage of guest speakers if the opportunity should arise. Ultimately, we need to optimize your learning experience via a dynamic and agile learning experience. The last two columns indicate how you will attend class for that given week. In this section, the course consists of 16 classes. Therefore, each week the course will be as follows:

Class	Lecture Topic	Homework/Assignment
Aug 20	Course Introduction	Group Formation Assignments
Aug 27	Group Formation	Readings in Project Charter Assignment
Sept 3	Case Study Introduction – Part 1	
Sept 10	Case Study Introduction – Part 2	
Sept 17	AI, Decision Making & Data Analytics	Data Visualization/Analytics (G)
Sept 24	Project Management and Planning	Project Charter (G)
Oct 1	Case Introduction by NT Logistics	
Oct 8	Facility Location and Design	Facility Location and Design (G)
Oct 15	Designing the SC Network	Network Design (G)
Oct 22	NO CLASS	NT Logistics Coaching Session
Oct 29	Project Review	NT Logistics Coaching Session
Nov 5	Project Review	NT Logistics Coaching Session
Nov 12	SCM Knowledge Assessment	Triage Assignment (G)
Nov 19	Final Report	Final Report (G)
Nov 26	NO CLASS	
Dec 3	Final Presentations	

SCM Departmental Policies

A. Academic Integrity

Cheating, plagiarism, or other inappropriate assistance on examinations, abstracts, or cases will be treated with zero tolerance and could result in a grade of “F” for the course. Any work should be solely your effort with ABSOLUTELY NO outside help or assistance. Students must be familiar with and adhere to the University’s Academic Integrity policies. A dedicated website for this information can be found at: <https://vpaa.unt.edu/ss/integrity>.

To steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own is plagiarism. If you quote or reference other’s material, you must cite your sources. Cutting and pasting from other sources, even if properly footnoted does not meet the criterion of submitting your own work and will result in a failing grade for the course. The examination instructions are very clear regarding what materials may be used on the exam. If you “preprogram” your calculator, use any materials other than those permitted on the exam, talk with other individuals during the exam, exchange information about an exam with an individual that has not taken the exam, or copy or use material from another individual’s exam, you will receive a failing grade for the course. According to University policy, if you become aware of any misconduct related to academic integrity, you should inform me or another proper authority such as the Department Chair or Associate Dean.

Additionally, the use of artificial intelligence (e.g., ChatGPT) on any course work is considered plagiarism and is prohibited, unless expressly authorized or cited. These violations are taken seriously, will be investigated, and academic sanctions will be actively pursued. The minimum penalty is an “F” on the assignment and referral to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action which may include expulsion from the University. For team-based deliverables, no distinction will be made between which student contributed a particular part(s) of the work. Any plagiarism in any part of any deliverable will result in the aforementioned penalties to all team members. Hence, team members are responsible for policing academic integrity within their team. For additional information about the University Integrity policy, go to <http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>.

By enrolling in a Department of Supply Chain Management (SCM) course, you promise to promote the integrity of learning and embrace the core values of trust and honesty. As such, you agree to adhere to the University of North Texas policy on Student Academic Integrity. Academic Integrity is based on educational principles and procedures that protect the rights of all participants in the educational process and validate the legitimacy of degrees awarded by the University. In the investigation and resolution of allegations of student academic dishonesty, the University’s actions are intended to be corrective, educationally sound, fundamentally fair, and based on reliable evidence.

The Department of SCM aims to ensure the ethical pursuit of knowledge in coursework, research, scholarship and creative activity. Therefore, it is required that all students enrolled in a Department of SCM course read, understand, and abide by the University of North Texas policy on Student Academic Integrity (Policy number: 06.003).

See full policy (PDF):

[https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003 Student Academic Integrity.pdf](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003%20Student%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf)

B. Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

All cellular or digital phones, pagers, and laptops are to be turned off during class. Failure to comply with this request will result in a letter grade deduction to the final grade if repeated. Laptop usage to investigate additional information during class will be encouraged at the discretion of the instructor.

C. Changes in Course

The schedule, policies, and assignments contained in this course syllabus are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, class progress, or by mutual agreement between the instructor and the students. All changes will be announced in class prior to the change with a posted change to the syllabus placed on CANVAS.

D. Instructor Feedback

Students can anticipate a response regarding emails, discussion posts, and assignments within 24-48 hours. Have no concerns on send me an email for any clarification that you might need during the course. I will be happy to discuss the course content and your progress on an individual basis by appointment.

E. Rules of Engagement

Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own. Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people's ideas, instead of attacking individuals. Proofread and fact-check your sources.

UNT Policies

A. Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation]

B. ADA Accommodation Statement

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation 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 to be delivered to 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 prior to 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 (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

UNT strives to offer you a high-quality education and a supportive environment, so you learn and grow. As a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can be successful at UNT, go to unt.edu/success and explore unt.edu/wellness. To get all your enrollment and student financial-related questions answered, go to scrappysays.unt.edu.

C. Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.