

The University of Texas at Dallas

Course Syllabus – Spring 2026

**Course Information**

Course Number/Section	BUAN6390.502.26S
Course Title	Analytics Practicum
Term	Spring 2026

**Professor Contact Information**

Professor	Mandar Samant
Email Address	<a href="mailto:mandar.samant@utdallas.edu">mandar.samant@utdallas.edu</a>
Days and Times	7:00 pm - 9:45 pm
Classroom	JSOM 12.210
Exam Dates	Presentation: May 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 (in class)
Office Hours	Thursday 330-430 PM
Office Location	ATEC 1.907 (MS Teams for the first meeting)

**Teaching Assistant Contact Information**

Teaching Assistant	Garg, Aparna
Email Address	<a href="mailto:Aparna.Garg@UTDallas.edu">Aparna.Garg@UTDallas.edu</a>
TA Office Hours	TBD
Mode	MS Teams/Virtual Meeting

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## Course Modality and Expectations

E-learning portal will be our primary point of entry to access the virtual classroom, access content (lecture notes, slides, videos, assignments, et al), look out for communications from us or view grades.

Duration	Course Modality
Jan 20- May 8, 2025	<p>Classes during this time, unless there is a change in the modality enforced by the University, will be strictly in-person, and attendance will be enforced. Students are expected to attend classes during this time, and an online option will not be provided.</p> <p>If students do not attend classes in person, they will not receive attendance credit for that week.</p> <p>The class will not be streamed live, nor will any recordings be made available.</p>
Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There is “NO” substitute to hard work. It has been scientifically proven that hard work is directly proportional to better grades. You are, however, free to prove me wrong!</li><li>• “The master key of knowledge is, indeed, a persistent and frequent questioning.” ASK Questions. Remember, there is no answer without a question.</li><li>• “Help thy neighbor”. Volunteer to help your peers. This is not only a class but an experience that all of us want to relish.</li><li>• Let the creative juices flow. If you wish to see some additional things in the class, let your professor know.</li><li>• Time waits for no one. So, honor the deadlines.</li></ul> <p>Read before coming to the class. Don’t forget – “Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity.”</p>

## Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

- Students should have completed at least 18 credits in the MS Business Analytics Program before enrolling in this course and MAS 6102 class
- Willingness to participate in class discussions and team projects is required.

## Course Description

Students gain experience and improve analytics skills through appropriate developmental work assignments in a real business environment. Students must identify and submit specific business learning objectives at the beginning of the semester. Students must demonstrate exposure to the managerial perspective via involvement or observation. At the end of the semester, the student prepares an oral or poster presentation or a written paper reflecting on the work experience.

The course provides students with a unique opportunity to work in a multidisciplinary team environment, interact with industry leaders, collect necessary data for analysis and assessment, develop business solutions, make recommendations, and manage the overall analytics engagements.

Students should have completed at least 18 credits in the MS Business Analytics program before enrolling in the course. Prerequisite: MAS 6102 or MBA major required.

## **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Understand business problems and develop practical analytics skills using a business problem through hands-on work assignments.
- Apply project management skills (e.g., planning, work breakdown structure, effort estimation, scheduling, monitoring)
- Analyze requirement data, plan, make sound decisions and develop a solution to a real-world problem
- Communicate and work effectively in disciplinary or multi-disciplinary teams
- Document, produce managerial and project progress reports, and present project progress and results.
- Gain exposure to managerial perspectives and decision-making processes through external speaker presentations and group discussions.
- Enhance communication and reflection skills by preparing and delivering a presentation/paper on the group project experience and its impact on their professional development.

## **Required Textbooks and Materials**

None

Audio recordings and slides that might be needed in the course will be made available on the eLearning portal. eLearning will be used as the central platform to provide access to class content (e.g., class slides and assignment descriptions) and the recording of grades. All announcements (e.g., changes in assignment dates) will be posted in eLearning and will be sent to the student's email on record in eLearning. It is the student's responsibility to regularly check their UT Dallas email accounts and review the Announcements page in eLearning.

## **Suggested Reading Textbooks and Materials**

There is no textbook for this course. Students must research and collect information from sources relevant to their projects. If necessary, the instructor may provide materials or presentations.

## **Required Materials**

Laptop to access eLearning, UTD email, MS Teams, and complete assignments/projects.

The course may use leading cloud data platforms and related labs as an optional hands-on experience to practice and test the concepts learned in the weekly classroom discussion.

## **Technical Requirements**

In addition to a confident computer and Internet literacy level, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements on the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage.

## Lecture Preparation

All assigned lecture preparation is to be completed before class on the date the content will be covered in the lecture. Generally, the preparation materials will be available and/or listed in the Course Schedule on eLearning approximately a week before the lecture.

## Lecture Session Guidelines

- Students are expected to be present, attentive, engaged, and participative during lectures.
- Students are expected to have a laptop open in class to enable participation in exercises and activities.
- Lectures will start on time and most often will use the entire class time duration.
- Students are responsible for all materials covered in a lecture, irrespective of their attendance. Neither the TA (if assigned) nor the instructor is required to cover lecture content one-on-one for students missing lectures.

## Academic Calendar

This is a **tentative** class schedule; changes to the schedule will be posted in eLearning. The following table gives a tentative outline and sequence of the topics to be covered or the activities to take place (exams or assignments) in these meetings. Assignments are due at the beginning of class; for example, an assignment due in Class 2 should be submitted through eLearning before the start of Class 2.

Weekly Agenda, topics and homework for each meeting will be posted before the class or shortly after the class.

BUAN6390.502.26S (Monday, 7-945 pm)				
Week	Dates	Class Topic	Details	Student Deliverables
1	01/20	Course Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Greetings! Introduction!</li><li>• Syllabus walkthrough</li><li>• Group Project Expectations</li><li>• Introduce structure for team, discuss student team meetings, frequency, and reporting.</li><li>• Discuss Team Charter purpose and its components for building synergy and commitment among team members.</li><li>• Discuss the Project Charter, its components, and how to complete it.</li></ul>	Review syllabus
2	01/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project Brainstorming</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analytics Project Scope Overview</li><li>• Project Management Lifecycle Fundamentals</li><li>• Brainstorming Techniques</li><li>• Assigning projects to student groups</li></ul>	Form project groups if one is not formed by the faculty  Participate in-class exercise

3	02/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Constraints</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss project scope with Project Sponsors or Industry mentors</li> <li>Discuss the foundations regarding the project constraints, project communication, and project planning</li> <li>Discuss charter, project plan, and other templates</li> </ul>	<p><b>Team Leader selection by 02/03 EOD for each group</b></p> <p>Establish format, schedule weekly meeting cadence with sponsor and students</p>
4	02/10	Project Communication and Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Charter Completion</li> <li>Discuss project charter-related questions and blockers</li> <li>Discuss next milestone for authoring a project plan</li> <li>If the project is from EduSourced, then the faculty would sign off on the Project Charter in EduSourced – ‘instructor verified’.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kickoff Meetings with the project sponsor by 02/09 EOD</b></p> <p>Discuss scope &amp; deliverables with the project sponsor as input for the Project Charter.</p> <p><b>Team Charter due 02/15 EOD</b></p> <p>Charter must be duly signed or approved with an approval email from the project sponsor</p>
5	02/17	Project Day: Project Discussions and Status Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a status report of the project, data gathering activities, and outcomes of weekly meetings with sponsors (if permitted previously).</li> <li>Identify weekly activities and plan accordingly.</li> <li>Review preliminary milestones and deliverables with faculty.</li> <li>Brainstorming with peers and the professor about your project status and ideas to get work accomplished</li> </ul>	<p>Work on creating a project plan with sprints, with in-scope/out of scope items, constraints, risks, timelines, and resource utilization</p> <p>Get project epics/story backlog established for the first 4 sprints (XLS sheet)</p>
6	02/23	Managing Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss project controls</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project Plan due on 02/25 EOD</b></p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss methods and approaches in managing the projects, and what to watch for to ensure proper and on-time delivery.</li> <li>• Discuss business ethics, its importance, and impact (facilitate discussion).</li> <li>• Address students' issues and possible issues related to the client.</li> </ul>	<p>Assess and refine the Project Plan documents together with the faculty.</p> <p>Get sign-off on the Project Plan by the faculty and the Project sponsor company.</p>
7	03/03	Guest Speaker Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Real-world technology projects and business outcomes – Discussion session with an Industry expert</li> <li>• Discuss project status with teams and discuss challenges</li> </ul>	<p>Provide a status report of the project, data gathering activities, and outcomes of weekly meetings with sponsors (if permitted previously).</p> <p>Review preliminary milestones and deliverables with faculty.</p>
8	03/10	Midterm: Group Milestone 1 Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group Milestone Presentation (In-class or virtual) with faculty and project sponsor.</li> <li>• Present (midterm) in class about work completed, work remaining, and progress to plan and resolve any issues impacting successful completion.</li> <li>• Attend a weekly meeting with the project sponsor.</li> <li>• Track and manage project action items, discuss project issues (if any) with faculty, and get guidance.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Group Project Midterm Milestone Presentation due by 03/10</b></p>
<b>March 16-21, 2025: Spring Break</b>				
10	03/24	Developing consulting-grade presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examples of presentations from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industry leaders</li> <li>• Coaches</li> <li>• Thesis presentations</li> <li>• Visionaries</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Brainstorming with peers and the professor about your project status and ideas</li> </ul>	<p>Discuss the spring plan, status of milestones, as the project plan is almost halfway through</p>

11	03/31	Guest Lecture – 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest Lecture: Industry Expert</li> </ul>	Continue working with the team and project sponsors through the weekly meetings, finishing user stories or tasks.
12	04/07	Project Risks and Mitigation Strategies (Mini case study discussion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss how to manage disruption and risk.</li> <li>• Relate disruption and risk topics as applicable to specific projects from the industry.</li> </ul>	<p>Attend a weekly meeting with the project sponsor.</p> <p>Track and manage project action items, discuss project issues (if any) with faculty, and get guidance.</p> <p>Provide project status updates and work with faculty on the latest interactions with the client (if permitted previously).</p>
13	04/14	Dry Run for final presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with students on “dry run” presentations and provide feedback.</li> <li>• Assess projects and provide feedback to students.</li> <li>• Decide a date/time with the client for the final presentation.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p><b>Intermediate Presentations due by 4/13 EOD</b></p> <p>Students to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present preliminary findings and recommendations to sponsor company and faculty ( can be separately)</li> <li>• Obtain company input and guidance regarding preliminary recommendations.</li> <li>• Incorporate client feedback from preliminary findings, update meetings as applicable.</li> </ul>
		Data Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss a couple of case studies contrasting</li> </ul>	Attend a weekly meeting

14	04/21		app vs. data projects.	with the project sponsor.  Track and manage project action items, discuss project issues (if any) with faculty, and get guidance.
15	04/28	Project Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and finalize final presentation and recommendations.</li> <li>Attend final team presentations to the client in class or on site and provide feedback.</li> </ul>	
16	05/05	Final Project Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final semester presentations to the client and giving feedback.</li> <li>If this is a UTDSolve project, then based on a pre-defined criteria, faculty select one “Best Project Team” in their capstone course section and inform utdsolv@utdallas.edu about their choice ultimately by 05/10/26, 11:59 PM.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Final Presentations with student teams and clients in the week of 5/5/2026 and to be uploaded to (EduSource &amp;) eLearning by 05/05/2026 EOD.</b></p> <p>If the project is from EduSourced, an Infographic (24x36, PDF) due and uploaded in (EduSourced &amp;) eLearning 05/08/26.</p> <p><b>Final Report with handover of code, specific links such as Github, demo links are due and uploaded (in EduSourced) &amp; eLearning 05/05/26.</b></p> <p><b>End-term 360 student peer evaluation survey due 05/08/26.</b></p>

## Projects, Labs and Assignment Guidelines

- The instructor will form teams of 6-8 students for the project(s).
- Team deliverables will be submitted by one (1) student from each team. Each member of the team will receive the same score based on the deliverable submitted unless there is a discrepancy in teamwork and effort spent. Individual scores may also get impacted if a team member is not present without prior intimation and approval by the team and the instructor.
- Individual assignment scores are for individual students and will be assessed accordingly.
- Deliverables are due at 11:59 pm on the due date shown on the assignment folder/calendar on eLearning.
- All assignments are due as per the instructions and dates provided on eLearning portal. I do not accept late assignments unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Late deliverable submissions will be assessed a 20% deduction for each day the deliverable submission is late.
- Deliverables (group and individual assignments) will not be accepted 5 days after the due date. Score will be zero.
- Information related to assignments, labs, and projects will be posted in eLearning as they are assigned. Labs, assignment and project-specific scoring criteria (rubric) will be included with the assignment/project instructions.
- Each student is expected to do their own work on the individual assignment. Working on assignment together or in groups, copying another student's work or computer files, or having another person do your work is scholastic dishonesty and will be addressed via the academic dishonesty processes of the University.
- Written assignments must adhere to the APA style guide of formatting, citing, and referencing.
- Final presentation/ exam and quizzes (if any) will be administered in the classroom where we usually meet and during the same times as your lectures.
- No extra credit assignments are available. Absolutely no exceptions here.
- General grading criteria can be found in eLearning. Assignment-specific grading criteria will be included with the assignment instructions.
- All group assignments/milestones will need to be submitted via eLearning. I do not accept assignments via email. If you submit an incorrect assignment or need to resubmit your assignment in eLearning, you will be allowed to resubmit two more times (a total of three attempts), as long as it is before the due date.
- You will be granted two attempts to resubmit the assignment before the due date and this will be automatically available to you in e-learning when the assignment is created by the instructor. Peer evaluations for group projects shall be submitted only once.
- In general, a point will be deducted for each non-compliance (e.g., missing a class session, a client meeting, an assignment, a survey, not following established guidelines, rubrics, or professionalism). The point deduction can grow quickly, so check your work before submission and always comply with the policies and expectations.
- Project teammates will provide input for the peer performance evaluation. It is important to note that performance far below expectations may result in a student's removal from a project team and an individual or team final course grade of "F" or "I" regardless of actual numerical grades. Such a grade could be assigned for reasons that include but are not limited to the following:
  - a. Poor peer evaluation.
  - b. Lack of meaningful participation in team activities or lack of meaningful contribution to the team's work.
  - c. Get fired by the client for any reason (e.g., not meeting expectations, not participating in meetings, not delivering on time).

- d. Substantially unequal team member contributions.

### Grading Policy

This course will feature a mix of activities and written and video assignments that may be in class or on campus. Homework will include readings from the text, assignments, and activities that usually require the student to complete some type of task. The instructor will provide detailed instructions as well as the grading criteria for each assignment. Please consult the course schedule for deadlines. Please be advised that if you have a question or issue with your assignment grade, your entire assignment is subject to re-grading, and it could lead to the addition or deduction of points.

### Grading Scheme

More details will be provided on the eLearning

Grading Milestones	Points	% Weightage
Final Group Project Demo Presentation	25	25%
Final Project Report, Artifacts Handover, Closure of the project	15	15%
Project Charter	10	10%
Project Plan	10	10%
Midterm milestone- Project Demo	20	20%
Guest Speaker Session Attendance	5	5%
Class Attendance	5	5%
Peer evaluation	10	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

The following table provides more details on grade ranges:

Final Point Total	Letter Grade
A	96.00-100.00
A-	91.00-95.99
B+	87.00-90.99
B	83.00-86.99
B-	80.00-82.99
C+	77.00-79.99

<b>C</b>	73.00-76.99
<b>F</b>	72.99 & below

### **Course Policies**

**eLearning** will be used for class content (e.g., class slides, assignment descriptions, etc) and the recording of grades. Slides will be posted in before the class is held. Class announcements (e.g., change in assignment dates) will be sent to the student email on record in eLearning via a class announcement or course message. It is the students' responsibility to regularly check their email accounts and announcements/ course messages on eLearning.

### **Class Materials**

The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Accessibility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of [the Student Code of Conduct](#).

**Instructor Response Policy:** The instructor will respond to all student inquiries (emails, voice messages, etc.) within 48 hours (excluding holidays and weekends).

### **Class Participation/ Attendance Policy**

This class incorporates a lot of in-class activities and discussions. It is highly recommended that you attend the lectures to gain the most out of the class. If you participate in the in-class activities, your understanding of the topic under discussion will be greatly enhanced.

Regular class participation is expected. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade for this course is directly tied to your participation in this class. It also includes engaging in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on homework assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures (and/or labs). Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of [the Student Code of Conduct](#).

### **Class Recordings**

The course emphasizes in-class learning. However, the instructor may record meetings of this course. These recordings will be made available to all students registered for this class if the intent is to supplement the classroom experience. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law.

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of

this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

**Late Work:** All assignments are due as per the timelines provided on the eLearning (not after), on the specified date. I do not accept late assignments unless prior arrangements have been made with me. No exceptions. No extra credit or make-up work will be given. If there are genuine/ extenuating circumstances, I will make exceptions on a case-to-case basis.

**Academic Integrity:** The University is committed to academic excellence and expects academic honesty from all members of the University community and believes that it is essential for academic excellence and integrity. Academic honesty includes adherence to guidelines established by the instructor in a particular course for both individual and group work. It prohibits representing the work of others to be one's own (plagiarism); receiving unauthorized aid on an assignment (cheating); and using similar papers or other work products to fulfill the obligations of different classes without the instructor's permission. Penalties for academic dishonesty may include a grade of "F" on the work in question or for the course. In addition, any student engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary action. Please refer to the General Polices website (see below) for detailed information pertaining to academic dishonesty, including procedures for determining disciplinary action.

**WORKING TOGETHER on Individual Assignments:** This course will have a considerable amount of solving interesting project scenarios. Each student is expected to do their own work on the "individual" assignments. Copying another student's work (computer files) or having another person do your work is scholastic dishonesty and will be dealt with accordingly.

**Makeup Exams:** I do not give make-up exams unless a student presents convincing proof of conditions that prevent him/her from taking the exam at the scheduled time.

### **Comet Creed**

*This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:*

**“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”**

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Please review [the section](#) within the UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures webpage.

### **Academic Support Resources**

Please visit the [Academic Support Resources](#) page to view the University's academic support resources for all students.

### **UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures**

Please visit the [Syllabus Policies](#) page to view the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please review the catalog sections regarding the [pass/fail](#) grading option and withdrawal from class.

*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.*