



UTD F18 ATCM1100 FreshPerson Seminar

Instructor:

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Time: 12:00 - 12:50

Mon	.004	Seminar	Schich
Wed	.305	Lab	Drury (TA)
Fri	.312	Lab	Drury (TA)

Time: 1:00 - 1:50

Mon	.006	Seminar	Schich
Wed	.308	Lab	Asgharpour (TA)
Fri	.313	Lab	Asgharpour (TA)

Room: ATC 2.101

Course Requirement

You must complete the CLA+ by Friday, August 31. Students who fail to meet this deadline will receive no credit for ATCM 1100 and will need to repeat ATCM 1100 in Fall 2019. *You cannot graduate from The University of Texas at Dallas without completing the CLA+. Go to <https://ets.utdallas.edu/testing-center/> and click the "Reserve Your Seat" red button to book a day and time for the CLA+ assessment.*

Course Description

The ATCM 1100 Freshman Seminar introduces incoming freshmen to the intellectual and cultural foundations of the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication (ATEC). This introduction seeks to help students transition successfully to college by engaging them in active learning, valuing a diverse community, and developing meaningful connections to the university community, which in turn will help students live, learn, and connect through their programs of study. These are strategies that will help them throughout life.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the Freshman Seminar, students should know how to:

- Relate the core curriculum learning outcomes and degree program outcomes to the goal of being an educated individual in a democratic society;
- Examine their own skills as an incoming university student through self-assessment, then compare that assessment to the skills necessary for success as university students—including critical thinking skills, communication skills, teamwork skills, empirical and quantitative skills, and social and personal responsibility;

- Use new skills to develop a roadmap to academic success; and
- Integrate into the university community.

Required Materials

This course has no required textbook, but be prepared to take notes.

Late Work

If a personal situation arises during the semester that may affect your classroom performance, please talk to me sooner rather than later. In other words, be proactive. If you wait until the end of the semester, I cannot help you. I can work with you more easily if you speak to me when the situation arises. I can't help you if I don't know you need help.

You can have make-up privileges for university-specified circumstances, including religious holy days and university-sponsored activities. If you must miss class or deadlines for such reasons, you must make arrangements with me in advance.

Digital Devices

You may use laptops, tablets, cell phones, and other digital devices so long as you use them responsibly and respectfully and particularly if you use them to enhance the class-experience. If your digital device disturbs other students or interferes with your ability to participate meaningfully in class activities, you may be asked to remove the distraction and/or leave class, thus losing credit for any of the day's activities. Please silence device notification settings before class begins and refrain from accepting calls in class.

However, if I see you are texting or emailing with a friend, watching a movie, or playing video poker, I will not be happy and may ask you to leave from that day's class.

I encourage you to take notes by hand. Studies increasingly find that people remember information more effectively when they take notes by hand because they have to listen more actively to decide what matters rather than mindlessly typing everything said in class.²

¹ Crede, Marcus; Roch, Sylvia G.; and Kieszczynka, Urszula M. 2010. Class Attendance in College: A meta-analytic review of the relationship of class attendance with grades and student characteristics. *Review of Educational Research* 80: 272-295.

² Mueller, Pam A. and Oppenheimer, Daniel M. 2014. The Pen Is Mightier Than the Keyboard: Advantages of longhand over laptop note taking. *Psychological Science* 25: 1159-1168.

Assignments

ATCM 1100 assignments are designed to help you integrate into the ATEC community, develop strategies to support your long-term goals, and enhance your skills needed to succeed academically. If you send any assignment to the professor as an email attachment (with "ATCM1100" in the subject line) at least two days before a deadline, you will receive feedback so that you are able to make corrections. The following course-specific policies supplement the standard UT Dallas policies that you must know and follow (available at <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>).

Grading Criteria

All work should conform to professional and ethical standards, so proofread and edit work that you submit in this class for clarity, mechanics, and style issues. Professionalism also means that you use appropriate source citations wherever and whenever necessary. You should not submit any work for this course that you developed for another course without written permission from both course instructors. While you may explore topics across courses, the work you submit for ATCM 1100 should be substantially different from the work that you submit in any other course.

ASSIGNMENTS	%
CLA+	0 (no credit)
Participation & Attendance	5
3 Three-Word-Phrases	5
Useful Inspirations	10
Success Strategy	15
Five Key References (5 total @ 3% Each)	15
Event Attendance (4 total @ 4% Each)	16
Group Presentation	34
TOTAL	100

All individual grades are scored out of 100 points. Because the grades are weighted, a simple average will not determine your grade.

CLA+: You will take the CLA+, a 90-minute standardized exam, in the Testing Center. This exam assesses critical thinking, analytic reasoning, problem solving, and written communication skills. The window for the exam is August 20 until August 31. You should schedule your appointment at <http://www.utdallas.edu/studentsuccess/testingcenter>

Participation & Attendance

More than just attendance, this grade reflects how you share your ideas, participate in classwork, engage your classmates, and behave with respect toward them. Your comments and insights contribute to the class' success, so you must attend class prepared to discuss material as a public, interactive process. Everyone benefits when you engage alternative perspectives, challenge interpretations, and invite constructive arguments as long as you do so respectfully.

This grade explicitly includes civility and professionalism in all course communication and behavior, such as contributing to conversations, respecting others' opinions, working together in a spirit of cooperation, and actively listening to those who are speaking. Some of the ways you can demonstrate your skills in this area include (but certainly are not limited to):

- Keeping the class in the foreground of your attention.
- Showing respect to your peers and to the instructor in your listening and communicating behaviors.
- Participating actively in class rather than simply waiting to be called on.
- Adding value with your contributions to discussion, such as connecting disparate ideas, bringing topical information to the table, and asking insightful questions.

- Taking responsibility for the consequences of your choices and actions.
- Demonstrating a strong work ethic by engaging all ungraded work (such as completing assigned readings, minor homework, and in-class exercises) with a mindfulness and timeliness to reflect a professional approach to the class.

Assignment 1: Three Three-word-phrases

Think of the aspects that make you enthusiastic about studying at university and in particular the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication. Once you thought about it, and maybe talked about it with others, try to *express your aims in three three-word phrases*. Think about why you are here and what you are enthusiastic about, from the general to the specific. Examples for three-word-phrases would be "arts and technology", "mapping multidisciplinary landscapes", or "nurturing fresh talent". To come up with your own phrases try spontaneity, quickly writing them on a piece of paper, perhaps iterating them to come up with a better version. Hand in only your best version of three three-word-phrases in a text file, in `.txt` format. The file should contain no more than three three-word-phrases in a single line, separating words in a phrase with a space, and separating phrases with a tab, followed by a single line break. Use the filename convention of `a1-YourNetID-phrases.txt`. Replace "YourNetID" with your own UTD NetID (three letters and six number digits). You will lose five points if you don't follow this naming convention.

Assignment 2: Start a study collection of useful inspirations

Creative practitioners, designers, researchers, and scientists frequently keep a collection of outstanding examples for their own inspiration. Such a collection could contain examples from other practitioners or from nature, images or any other genre of physical or conceptual object, even examples of human behavior or role models. In this spirit, *prepare a single page overview bringing together between 5 and 9 examples* that inspire you related to your own goal of study. In short: What blows your mind? Examples would be "striking depictions of water in animation movies" or the "Seven Easy Pieces" of performance art by Marina Abramovic. Excellent study collections avoid plagiarism by making the original sources explicit. Hand in a single page in `.pdf` format, letter size, in landscape orientation. Use the filename convention of `a2-YourNetID-inspiration.pdf`. You will lose five points if you don't follow this format and naming convention.

Assignment 3: Start formulating your success strategy

Research papers and funding applications typically start with a "summary abstract paragraph". Large projects often issue mission statements and presidential summaries. Job applicants have to convince with elevator pitches and the first paragraph of their cover letter. In this assignment, aim to *convince yourself and your peers by formulating a success strategy*, adopting the "abstract format" using no more than 500 words. Include at least one sentence for each of the following aspects: A statement regarding the current general situation; a statement specifying an existing issue or gap that could be addressed by you as an individual or a group under your leadership; a statement how you will address the specific issue ("Through my study of ... I aim to ..."); some further detail regarding the expected results; and finally a statement how your results will change the general situation. Don't underestimate this assignment based on the brevity of the final text. Formulating your success strategy is an act of poetry. Use the filename convention of `a3-YourNetID-strategy.pdf`. You will lose five points if you don't follow this format and naming convention.

Assignment 4: Stand on the shoulders of giants

Identify five key references related to your interest of study. Include at least one state-of-the-art general textbook or scholarly review paper; include at least one cutting-edge scholarly publication that goes beyond established textbooks; and include at least one classic scholarly publication that precedes the World Wide Web in terms of publication date. In addition, include a strikingly relevant website, and include a large relevant database. Use APA style for your five references (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>). Rationalise your choice in a single explanatory one-line sentence below each reference. Hand in no more than a single page in .pdf format, letter size, and landscape orientation. Use the filename convention of `a4-YourNetID-giants.pdf`. You will lose five points if you don't follow this format and naming convention.

Event Attendance

You will attend at least four of the six event types listed below during the semester. As a proof of participation take a selfie at the event with the event title visible in the picture (official sign, info material, or organizing staff). Use the filename convention of `a5-YourNetID-EventType-EventDate.jpg`. You will lose five points if you don't follow this naming convention.

Group Presentation: For your group presentation, each group will choose a common goal and explain through your presentation in any style (serious, academic, frivolous, fun, whimsical, and so on) and method (PowerPoint slides, video, original art, spoken word, poetry, music, dance, and so on) how the goal can be actualized.

Event Types:

ATEC	Events sponsored by ATEC organizations
Career	Events sponsored by the UTD Career Center
Diversity	Events hosted on campus focusing on a cultural group that is not your own
Service	Events sponsored by the UTD Office of Student Volunteerism
Social	Any event on campus
Wellness	Events sponsored by UTD Recreational Sports, the Health Center, or the Counseling Center

Event Date:

Please include the `EventDate` using the format `YYYYMMDD` as in `20180820` (for August 20, 2018).

YourNetID:

Please replace `YourNetID` with your own UTD NetID (three letters and six number digits).

Grade Rubric for Assignments

To make a C or less, simply do not follow the assignment instructions, include spelling and grammar errors, disregard filename and file format conventions, and/or turn it in after the deadline. To make a B, follow the assignment instructions, avoid spelling and grammar errors in writing, follow filename and file format conventions, turn it in on time, and include academic references. To make an A, aim for excellence in terms of content, including references and graphical layout. Don't forget you are in ATEC.

Course Schedule

Week/Date	Lecture Topic	Lab Topics
1 Aug 20 - 24	University Culture What makes UTD unique? (History, Majors, Reputation) (The world, DFW, UTD, ATEC, we, and you)	High School vs. College
2 Aug 27 - 31	The Multidisciplinary Landscape (co-location, co-interest, co-occupation, communication)	Professional Communication
Friday, Aug 31	CLA+ Deadline	
3 Sept 03 - 07	NO CLASS (Labor Day)	Getting Involved
Friday, Sept 07	Assignment 1 due: 3 Three-word-phrases	file format: a1-YourNetID-phrases.txt
4 Sept 10 - 14	Locating Yourself and Maximizing College How do you get the most benefit from UTD? (Professors, TAs, Fellow Students, On-Campus, Off-Campus, Be a Reporter, Sit-Ins)	Academics
Friday, Sept 14	Assignment 2 due: What blows your mind?	file format: a2-YourNetID-inspiration.pdf
5 Sept 17 - 21	Teaming Up and Maximizing Enthusiasm Looking at inspirations and talking about what is needed to make it happen? (forming groups)	Group project work day (leader choice)
6 Sept 24 - 28	Critical Thinking (analyzing art, design, figures, anything)	Group project work day
7 Oct 01 - 05	Creative Thinking (let's talk methods, tools, workflows)	Group project work day
Friday, Oct 5	Assignment 3 due: Success Strategy 1st try	file format: a3-YourNetID-strategy.pdf
Friday, Oct 5	Event Attendance 1 & 2 due	a5-YourNetID-EventType-EventDate.jpg
8 Oct 08 - 12	Computational Thinking (soap, brown versus orange dots, and violins)	Managing Stress
9 Oct 15 - 19	Multidisciplinarity Redux (the ideal bookshelf, bridging university silos)	Midterm Madness
10 Oct 22 - 26	Group advising [guest panel discussion]	Civility in a Diverse Society [guest lecture]
11 Oct 29 - Nov 02	Archaeology of the Future (setting the base for innovation through term)	Wellness

	expansion and forward bibliography to identify the state-of-the-art, the classics, the cutting edge, and the sleeping beauties)	
12 Nov 05 - 09	Portfolio Development What should be in your body of work? (studies, compositions, improvisations) (artworks, games, movies, books, papers, etc.)	Relationships
13 Nov 12 - 16	Careers & Internships (College, Career, and Personal) Final assignment advice	Money/Budgeting
Friday, Nov 16	Assignment 3 due: Success Strategy 2nd try	file format: a3-YourNetID-strategy.pdf
Friday, Nov 16	Assignment 4 due: Five key references	file format: a4-YourNetID-giants.pdf
14 Nov 19 - 23	FALL BREAK (no class)	FALL BREAK (no class)
15 Nov 26 - 30	Group project work day	Group project work day
Friday, Nov 30	Event Attendance 3 & 4 due	a5-YourNetID-EventType-EventDate.jpg
16 Dec 03 - 07	Group Presentations	Feedback & course evaluation

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.