

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER
SOULES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Spring 2026

COURSE NUMBER: MANA 3300.060

COURSE TITLE: Critical and Analytical Thinking in Business

INSTRUCTOR: Brandy Meadows, MBA
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COB 350.44

REQUIRED TEXT: *Learning to Think Through Things. A Guide to Critical Thinking Across the Curriculum.* Fourth Edition. Author – Gerald M. Nosich

REQUIRED TOOLS: Microsoft Office, specifically Word
Video recording device (can be a smart phone) & webcam

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course focuses on critical and analytical thinking involved with business decisions. Topics include the elements of reasoning, interpretation of data, learning how to critique and construct arguments, and understanding complex business problems.

PREREQUISITES: COSC 1307, MATH 1342 or GENB 2300

OFFICE HOURS: **In-person office hours:**
Monday: 8-10 AM & 12:30-2:30 PM
Tuesday: 10 AM-2PM
Wednesday: 8-10 AM
Or by appointment
Zoom and in-person available

LINKEDIN www.linkedin.com/in/brandymeadows/

Important Information for Success in MANA 3300.060

1. **Announcements, email, and communication:** Open communication is key to success in this course. I send announcements via Canvas on a regular basis. I also communicate with you through Canvas messenger. You are responsible for reading and replying when necessary. If you do not understand a concept, assignment, feedback I give, or a grade, please ask! If you are having trouble with work or personal issues that are impeding your success in this class, let me know so we can work together for a successful semester.
2. **Format for assignments:**
 - Name and date typed at the top right of all submitted documents
 - 12-point font
 - Citations listed on a separate page at the end of the assignment. All citations should be in APA Style. For more information view www.apastyle.org or <https://owl.perdue.edu>
 - Assignments submitted as a Word document, not a pdf
 - Do not copy or rewrite the given questions onto your submission
3. **Late Work policy for assignments and idea posts:** I will accept assignments one day past the due date and assess a ten-point late penalty. After the one-day late acceptance day, assignments will not be accepted and a zero will be given for the assignment. For example, if a 50-point assignment is due on Sunday, but you do not submit work until Monday, the highest grade you can receive is a 40. If you wait until Tuesday, you will receive a zero for the assignment.
4. **AI Use:** AI can be a wonderful tool but should be used as just that – a tool. You are welcome to use AI to help generate ideas, but I caution you in doing this. Using AI can sometimes stifle your own ideas, leading you to lean too heavily on AI for your assignment submission. I will not accept assignments or discussion posts that have been generated by AI, then copied, pasted, and submitted. This is considered plagiarism. In addition to reading your submissions, I use the AI checker that is provided in Canvas. If I believe your assignment is an AI generated submission, you will be required to meet with me to discuss and answer some questions about the submission and chapter content. If you use AI for assignments, even for checking grammar, you must cite your use and be prepared to show your prompts.
5. **Plagiarism:** I know there is a wealth of information on the Internet, and you can find an answer to most questions. I love for you to use outside resources, but they should be used in addition to the textbook and information I give to form your own ideas and answers. You should always document the sources you use to formulate your answers. If you do not document your sources and use your own words (plagiarize) you will receive a zero for the assignment or discussion post.
6. **Idea Posts (video and written):** Idea posts are a component of this course. These include both video and written posts. Some of the posts will require replies while others will not. Specific instructions will be given for each post.
7. **Midterm & Final:** The midterm and final will cover the textbook reading and other content given in the Canvas modules. These will both require the use of Respondus Monitor, which requires a webcam.
8. **Modules:** This course is divided into two-week content modules. Modules will open on a Monday, with all information (reading, videos, assigned work) for the module available. Work is typically due the second Sunday in the module unless otherwise stated. The midterm and final will only be open for one week.
9. **Important Dates:** University-January 26, 2026 (Census), March 30, 2026 (Final withdraw date)

Spring Break-March 9-13

Class-Week of March 16-22 (Midterm). Week of April 27-May 1 (Final)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Apply the elements of reasoning and standards of critical thinking to think through concepts and issues. Some applications in this class include:
 - a. Creating well-written answers and opinions about a variety of topics using critical thinking skills and models
 - b. Detecting errors in reasoning and explaining how the reasoning is in error
 - c. Evaluating evidence and making appropriate inferences from that evidence
 - d. Providing thoughtful feedback to peers and participating effectively in group collaborative learning activities
2. Demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret data
3. Demonstrate the decision making and problem-solving skills needed in a business environment
4. Cite all sources used in your class work correctly using APA style. Meeting this objective will ensure that:
 - a. it is clear what thoughts and ideas in your work are the results of your own critical and analytical thinking
 - b. readers can use your citations to find/review the original sources of ideas and there will be no plagiarism in your class submissions.

EVALUATION:

Grades are determined on a percentage scale based on the number of points earned out of the maximum points.

Assignments	50 %
Idea/Discussion Posts	20 %
<u>Midterm & Final</u>	<u>30 %</u>
Total:	100 %

90-100% of total points = A

80-89% of total points = B

70-79% of total points = C

60-69% of total points = D

0-59% of total points = F

University Information & Policies

UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Students Rights and Responsibilities To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free.

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar. Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract. The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

Revised 01/18 If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA

Statement It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

i. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student's test paper;
 - using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
 - failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
 - possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes".
- The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
 - collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
 - discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
 - divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
 - substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
 - paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
 - falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
 - taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
 - misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

ii. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit. iii. "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty. iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

UT Tyler Resources for Students

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)