

UC 153 DESIGNING YOUR FUTURE

Ohio Wesleyan University

Spring Semester 2024

Course Syllabus

0.25 units

Course description

Given the varied interests students have, how do they ensure that they will leave OWU feeling confident in their career direction and ready to launch into their post college life? Based on the process known as “design thinking”, this course will challenge students to think of themselves as designers. They will have ideas, test them, reflect on them, and refine them over time. Designing a career might seem like a scary and daunting task, but the Career Connection Team will be here to guide them through the process! In this class, students will design a college experience that aligns with who they are, what they hope to gain from their time at OWU, and identifies options to pursue following graduation.

Instructors:

Leigh Mascolino (lemascolin@owu.edu) – Director of Career Connection

Mindy Agin (mbagin@owu.edu) – Assistant Director of Career Planning & Exploration

Class Time & Location: Tuesdays | 3-3:50PM | R. W. Corns, Room 203

I. Course Objectives

- Introduce students to design thinking principles to “design” their future career.
- Help students explore career opportunities with a liberal arts degree.
- Teach strategies for successful career exploration.
- Expand awareness of career-related resources and personal branding.

Throughout the course, students will:

- Learn how to articulate their story and design their future career.
- Identify and articulate transferrable skills from liberal arts majors.
- Understand and practice steps in the career decision-making process.
- Explore and research different career paths, identify salary information, training requirements, professional testimonials, and projected job market outlook.
- Shadow and speak with professionals and employers
- Develop skills and confidence in resume writing, interviewing, and networking.
- Gain comfort and familiarity with public speaking and communicating ideas.

II. Required Texts

There is one required text called “Designing Your Life: How to Build a Well-Lived, Joyful Life” by Bill Burnett & Dave Evans.

****Career Connection will purchase and provide the required text for students.***

III. Attendance

Attendance and active participation in lectures is expected. This class meets once a week for 50 minutes and involves hands-on activities. Students will receive points by arriving to class on time and actively participating in class activities. For each class missed, the student will lose 1% of their total grade UNLESS the student contacts the instructor with a valid reason.

IV: Late Assignments

To receive full credit, assignments must be turned in by the indicated class session. Any assignment turned in late will have a grade penalty. Reduction in grade penalties can only be waived if the delay in submission of the assignment is **due to documented circumstances beyond the student's control**.

V. Course Grading

Course Assignments	Possible Points
Attendance and Participation	15
Reading Reflections	10
Resume Development & Revision	10
Career Advising Appointment	5
1:1 Strengths Conversation	5
Career Fair/Networking Event Reflection	10
Prototyping Experience & Reflection Paper	25
Career Design Handout & Presentation	20
<i>Extra Credit: Additional Career Event OR LinkedIn Profile</i>	<i>+3</i>
Total	100

Summary of Assignments and Course Topics

Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend each class lecture and participate actively in hands-on activities. Participation also includes a pre- & post class survey.

Career Advising Appointment

Students will need to schedule an appointment with Leigh Mascolino or Mindy Agin in Career Connection to occur between February 1st – February 22nd. Students will review their resume and complete the Challenge Mindset Card Sort. Students are welcome to schedule multiple appointments throughout the semester, and appointments may be virtual or in-person.

1:1 Strengths Conversation

Student will be asked to meet with a Career Ambassador for a 1:1 conversation around their Strengths!

Resume Development & Revision

Students will be required to submit a revised copy of their resume. A class session is dedicated to resume writing and students can work with their instructor 1:1 before the assignment is submitted. Students will be graded on resume standards outlined in the assignment.

Reading Reflections

Students will read the “Designing Your Life” book and will post a reflection on blackboard to discuss reading concepts.

Career Fair/Networking Event

Students are asked to attend the OWU Career & Summer Internship Fair on February 29th or another approved networking/career event and to reflect on their experience on Blackboard.

Prototyping Experience & Reflection Paper

Students will participate in at least 3 hours of Shadowing/Informational Interview experiences with Alum(s) or professional(s) in fields of interest. Instructors will provide resources and direct support to the students to help secure these experiences. After completing the experience(s), students will complete a brief 1-2-page reflection and send a quality thank-you note to the individual(s) they met with.

Career Design Handout & Presentation

Students will tie together learnings from the course into a brief presentation with a handout that covers concepts from the Designing Your Future Book, OWU Strengths Assessment, Challenge Mindset, Prototyping Experiences, Odyssey Plan, and how their perspective has changed.

VI. Course Schedule

Week	Class Topic	Class Details	Notes & Deadlines
Week 1 Jan 23	Course Overview & Design Thinking	Syllabus & Blackboard Review Career Connection Resources Design Thinking Introduction	<u>NOTES</u> <i>Take Pre-Survey</i> <i>Read DT Overview Article</i>
Week 2 Jan 30	Writing a Stellar Resume	Resume Overview Put the “Sizzle” On Your Resume Good & Bad Resume Samples	<u>NOTES</u> <i>Bring Your Resume</i> <i>Sign Up - 1:1 Career Appt. and Strengths Meeting</i>
Week 3 Feb 6	Empathy Stage & Work/Life View	Identify Career Pressures & Myths Health, Work, Play, Love Dashboard Work/Life View	DUE Prototyping Checkpoint #1 <i>DYL Book: Read Intro & CH 1 & 2 - Complete Reflection</i>
Week 4 Feb 13	OWU Strengths & Wayfinding	The “Power” Of Your Strengths Engagement, Flow & Energy Activity	<u>NOTES</u> <i>Come with Strengths Assessment Results</i> <i>DYL Book: Read CH 3</i>

Week 5 Feb 20	Define Stage & Mind Mapping	Mind-Mapping Exercise Good Times Journal Discussion Debrief Book Reading	<u>DUE</u> Complete 1:1 Strengths Meeting <i>DYL Book: Read CH 4</i>
Week 6 Feb 27	Employment Marketing/Networking	Crafting the 1-minute-me Networking/Career Fair Strategies	<u>DUE</u> Prototyping Experience Checkpoint #2 1:1 Career Advising Appointment
Attend the Career & Summer Internship Fair @ Connection Conference on February 29, 12:00-2:00PM, HWCC Benes Rooms			
Week 7 Mar 5	Ideation Stage & Odyssey Planning	Odyssey Plan Activity	<u>DUE</u> Career Fair/ Networking Event Reflection <i>DYL Book: Read CH 5</i>
Week 8 Mar 19	Ideation Stage & Odyssey Discussion	Odyssey Plan Reflection "How Might I" Questions	<u>DUE</u> Resume Development & Revision <i>DYL Book: Read CH 6 - Complete Reflection 2</i>
Week 9 Mar 26	Prototyping Stage & Researching Options	Prototyping List Activity Resource Overview Career scavenger Hunt Activity	<u>DUE</u> Prototyping Experience Checkpoint #3
Week 10 Apr 2	Test Stage & Fail Forward	Guest Speaker Fail Forward Activity	<u>NOTES</u> <i>DYL Book: Read CH 10</i>
Week 11 Apr 9	Alumni Designing Their Career Panel	Panel of Alumni Discussion of How They Have "Designed" Their Careers Over Time	<u>NOTES</u> <i>Come with questions and engage with panelists</i>
Week 12 Apr 16	Interviewing Strategies	Guest Presentation on Interview Strategies	<u>NOTES</u> <i>Review Interview Guide and engage with panelists</i>

<p>Week 13 Apr 23</p>	<p>Career Design Presentations</p>	<p>Student Career Design Presentations</p>	<p><u>DUE</u> Career Design Handout & Presentation</p>
<p>Week 14 Apr 30</p>	<p>Career Decision Making & Next Steps</p>	<p>Decision Making Styles Evaluating Opportunities Summer Planning/Goal Setting</p>	<p><u>DUE</u> Prototyping Experience & Reflection Paper Read CH 9 & 11– <i>Complete Reflection</i> <u>NOTES</u> <i>Take Post-Survey</i></p>
<p>Exam Week</p>	<p>Best wishes!</p>		<p><u>NOTES</u> <i>ALL Assignments & Extra Credit Due</i></p>