

## DESIGNING YOUR FUTURE

Ohio Wesleyan University

Spring Semester 2021

Course Syllabus

0.25 units

### Course description

When arriving at OWU, students are faced with the challenging decision of choosing a major/minor, given the multiple, varied interests they have. How do students ensure that they will leave OWU feeling confident in their career direction and choices 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](mailto:lemascolin@owu.edu)) – Director of Career Development

**Mindy Agin** ([mbagin@owu.edu](mailto:mbagin@owu.edu)) – Assistant Director of Internships & Externships

**Class Time & Location:** Tuesdays | 3-3:50PM | Elliott Hall, Room

### 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.
- Research different career paths, identify salary information, training requirements, professional testimonials, and projected job market outlook.
- Develop skills and confidence in resume writing, personal branding and networking.
- Gain comfort and familiarity with public speaking and communicating ideas.

### II. Required Texts

There are no required textbooks for this course. The instructors will send out miscellaneous readings via emails and Blackboard.

### 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
Resume Development & Revision	15
Two Individual 1:1 Appointments with instructor/career coach	10
Career Fair/Networking Event Attendance & Reflection	15
Career Networking Conversation & Reflection	20
Career Design Summary Paper	25
<i>Extra Credit: Additional career event/service participation</i>	<i>+3</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### Summary of Assignments and Course Topics

#### **Attendance and Participation**

Students are expected to attend each class lecture and participate actively in hands-on activities.

#### **Two Individual 1:1 Appointments with Instructor/Career Coach**

Students will need to schedule two appointments with Career Connection.

#### **Resume Development & Revision**

Students will be required to submit a revised copy of their resume. A class session will be dedicated to resume writing, and students will get feedback from their peers. Students will submit a revised version of their resume, along with the first version and edits from the class peer-review.

#### **Career Fair/Networking Event Attendance & Reflection**

Students will attend the OWU Internship & Summer Job Fair or another approved networking/career event, and will be asked to reflect on their experience.

#### **1:1 Career Networking Conversation & Reflection**

Students will receive assistance from Mindy Agin to participate in 1:1 networking conversations with Alumni and OWU friends and conduct an Informational Interview. Following this interaction, students will complete a brief reflection.

### Career Design Summary Paper

Students will tie together learnings from the course in this 2-3 page paper that covers design thinking, career thoughts, self-knowledge, option-knowledge, personal mission statement, and next steps. Students will share a presentation overview of this paper with the class.

### VI. Course Schedule

Week	Class Topic	Class Details	Due Today
Week 1 Feb 9 <i>(virtual)</i>	<b>Overview of Course &amp; Design Thinking</b>	Syllabus & Blackboard Review Career Connection Resources Design Thinking Introduction	<u>PARTICIPATION</u> <i>Pre-Course Assessment</i>
Week 2 Feb 16	<b>Resume Writing</b>	Good & Bad Resume Samples Myths & Musts Resume Peer Review	<u>PARTICIPATION</u> <i>Prepare Resume Draft for Review</i>
Week 3 Feb 23	<b>Employment Marketing &amp; Networking</b>	Crafting the 1-minute-me Networking/Career Fair Strategies LinkedIn Overview	<i>*Attend Internship &amp; Summer Job Fair on Feb 25 OR Mock Interview Event</i>
Week 4 Mar 2	<b>Designers Explore Options</b>	Interactive improvisation activity & discussion	<u>PARTICIPATION</u> <i>Watch Design Thinking Video</i>
Week 5 Mar 9	<b>Factors Influencing Career Choice</b>	Identify Career Pressures and Myths Career Confidence/Imposter Syndrome Decision Space Worksheet	<u>DUE</u> Revised Resume
Week 6 Mar 16	<b>Self-Assessment: What can I do?</b>	StrengthsQuest workshop Transferrable skills discussion	<u>PARTICIPATION</u> <i>Bring Strengths Assessment Results</i>
Week 7 Mar 23	<b>Self-Assessment: What's important to me?</b>	Values, Interests & Personality Pride stories Challenge Mindset	
Week 8 Mar 30	<b>Researching Options</b>	Resource Overview Scavenger Hunt Sheet Register for 3 career paths to research	<u>DUE</u> Career Fair/ Networking Event Reflection

Week 9 Apr 6	<b>Alumni Panel</b>	Discussion of how Alumni have “designed” their careers over time	<u>PARTICIPATION</u> <i>Submit questions for panelists</i>
Week 10 Apr 20	<b>Interviewing Strategies</b>	Examples, practice, videos, question strategies Guest presentation from an employer	<u>DUE</u> 1:1 Career Networking Conversation & Reflection
Week 11 Apr 27	<b>Career Design Presentations</b>	Students share their elevator pitch and career designs with the class	<u>DUE</u> Career Design Summary Paper
Week 12 May 4	<b>Career Design Presentations</b>	(continued) students share their elevator pitch and career designs with the class	
Week 13 May 18	<b>Career Decision Making &amp; Next Steps</b>	Decision Making Styles Evaluating Opportunities Career Action Plan	<u>PARTICIPATION</u> <i>Post-Course Survey</i>
Exam Week			<u>DUE</u> Both 1:1 career advising meetings, class assignments & extra credit