

## **DEC320 Connections**

### **(3 credit hours)**

### **Course Syllabus**

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### **Course Description**

This course focuses on students developing competence and proficiency in critical analysis, problem-solving, research techniques, multimodal communication methods, and professional networking. The course includes rigorous academic curriculum and experiential learning structures using integrative teaching and learning practices focused on the students' professional position intended at graduation. The purpose of this course is to facilitate experiences for students that lead them to make connections between classroom studies and life outside the classroom in a way that transforms theory into practice. The course also assists students with understanding how culture affects and influences their identity and their interactions within societal organizations.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Analyze and assess personal beliefs on social issues while comparing dominant and alternative viewpoints.
2. Create and implement interview strategies for multiple objectives.
3. Develop a personal and professional presence in multiple mediums and structure an action plan for their personal and professional goals.
4. Participate in and document an experiential learning activity in order to connect societal influences and individual identity for inclusion in the students' eportfolio.

### **Required Textbook(s) and Resources**

All course materials are included as links within the course.

Be sure to also review the weekly **Explore** sections for additional library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](#).

### **Time Commitment**

Effective time management is possibly the single most critical element to your academic success. To do well in this online class you should plan your time wisely to maximize your

learning through the completion of readings, discussions, and assignments. Because of our accelerated, seven-week term, TU online courses are designed with the expectation that you dedicate a little over **six (6)** hours per credit hour to course activities and preparation **each week**. For example, for successful completion of a three-credit, seven-week online course you should reserve roughly **twenty (20) hours per week**.

To help plan your time and keep on track toward successful course completion, note the distinctive rhythm of assignment due dates:

1. All times assume Eastern Time (GMT-4).
2. Weeks begin at 12:00 a.m. ET on Monday and end at 11:55 p.m. ET on Sunday.
3. Unless otherwise noted, initial assignments or discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Wednesdays**.
4. Additional assignments or follow-up discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Saturdays, and**
5. Major assignments and reflections are typically due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Sundays**.

## Learning Activities

This course integrates various interactive and practical activities to ensure the development of essential digital literacy and technology skills. The learning activities include forum discussions, hands-on projects, case studies, and eLabs, all designed to align closely with course outcomes and provide real-world application opportunities. Significant assignments include forum discussions, where students analyze and debate ethical, legal, privacy, and security issues related to digital technology, and short assignments focusing on practical applications of digital literacy skills, such as evaluating AI tools or addressing security issues. Additionally, eLab activities provide hands-on experience with Microsoft Office applications, with tasks like creating documents, presentations, and spreadsheets, complemented by automatic feedback to enhance learning outcomes. The course culminates in a final project, combining a written report and a PowerPoint presentation on artificial intelligence tools, allowing students to demonstrate their acquired technological knowledge and competencies comprehensively.

## Grading

The chart below identifies the individual contributions from each type of activity per week.

| Week 1                                      | Week 2                       | Week 3                       | Week 4                        | Week 5                        | Week 6                        | Week 7                        | Total |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| Forum Activity 1.1 (0)<br>Activity 1.2 (40) | Forum Activity 2.1 (40)      | Forum Activity 3.1 (40)      | Forum Activity 4.1 (40)       | Forum Activity 5.1 (40)       | Forum Activity 6.1 (40)       | Forum Activity 7.1 (40)       | 280   |
| Assignment Activity 1.3 (90)                | Assignment Activity 2.2 (90) | Assignment Activity 3.2 (90) | Assignment Activity 4.2 (100) | Assignment Activity 5.2 (100) |                               | Assignment Activity 7.2 (100) | 570   |
|   |                              |                              |                               |                               | Assignment Activity 6.2 (150) |                               | 150   |
| 130   | 130                          | 130                          | 140                           | 140                           | 190                           | 140                           | 1000  |

## Grading Scale

A: 90-100% | B: 80-89% | C: 70-79% | D: 60-69% | F: <60%

## Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

### Start Here

- MON: Activity 1.1: Introductions & Defining Culture

### Week 1 - Intro to DEIB and Professional Identity

- WED: Activity 1.1: Introductions & Defining Culture - Optional Responses
- WED: Activity 1.2: Image of Self Forum - Initial Post
- SAT: Activity 1.2: Image of Self Forum - Follow-Up Post
- SUN: Activity 1.3: Word Cloud Identity Assignment

### Week 2 - Social Norms and Unconscious Bias

- WED: Activity 2.1: Unconscious Bias Awareness Mind Map - Initial Post
- SAT: Activity 2.1: Unconscious Bias Awareness Mind Map - Follow-Up Post
- SUN: Activity 2.2: Your Influence

### Week 3 - Identity and Community Influence

- WED: Activity 3.1: Identity in the Community/Workplace - Initial Post
- SAT: Activity 3.1: Identity in the Community/Workplace - Follow-Up Post
- SUN: Activity 3.2: Community/Professional Organizations

### Week 4 - Impact and Influence in Professional Settings

- WED: Activity 4.1: Observing DEIB in Action - Initial Post

- ❑ SAT: Activity 4.1: Observing DEIB in Action - Follow-Up Post
- ❑ SUN: Activity 4.2: DEIB Enhancement Plan

## **Week 5 - Observational Analysis**

- ❑ WED: Activity 5.1: Observational Analysis Discussion - Initial Post
- ❑ SAT: Activity 5.1: Observational Analysis Discussion - Follow-Up Post
- ❑ SUN: Activity 5.2: Observational Analysis Guide

## **Week 6 - Contextual Analysis and DEIB Practice]**

- ❑ WED: Activity 6.1: Contextual Analysis Forum - Initial Post
- ❑ SAT: Activity 6.1: Contextual Analysis Forum - Follow-Up Post
- ❑ SUN: Activity 6.2: Contextual Analysis Report

## **Week 7 - DEIB Integration and Course Reflection**

- ❑ WED: Activity 7.1: Future of DEIB Forum - Initial Post
- ❑ SAT: Activity 7.1: Future of DEIB Forum - Follow-Up Post
- ❑ SUN: Activity 7.2: Course Reflection

## **Tips for Success**

Online learning requires self-discipline and self-direction. As seekers of the truth, we should be willing to challenge one another's academic work in a spirit of respectful comradery. Your course is a place for you to grow as you benefit from the expertise, experience, and diverse perspectives of your instructor and peers. Constructive feedback will challenge you to stretch your own thinking, thereby expanding your knowledge and understanding.

To get the most out of your learning experience, you should actively engage (participate) in **ALL** course activities. Course elements are arranged chronologically. To complete a week, simply work your way "down the page" through all of the course materials and activities.

## **For More Information:**

Be sure to review the [Support, Policies, and Procedures](#) addendum.