# 2222-LAPS-5310-001/-002/-900
# Learning Analytics Fundamentals
Spring 2022

## Instructor Information

**Instructor(s)**
Dr. Justin T. Dellinger

**Email Address**
jdelling@uta.edu

**Faculty Profile**
You are able to find information about any course instructors at
https://mentis.uta.edu/explore/browse

**Office Hours**
Given the global nature of our master's program, instructors will meet with students as needed via Microsoft Teams or Zoom. Students can schedule a time with me via email.

## Course Information

**Section Information**
2222-LAPS-5310-001/-002/-900

**Time and Place of Class Meetings**
This course will take place online only. While the majority of the course will be completed asynchronously, there will be opportunities for synchronous sessions. Due to the context of this course, I will request preferred availability from enrolled students. You are encouraged to attend, but I fully understand that it might not be possible. Any live sessions will be recorded, and I will be available to answer any questions that you might have.

**Description of Course Content**
This course surveys the field of learning analytics since its formal inception in 2011 and the unique contributions it makes to learning innovation and education. The course situates the field, introduces key theoretical frameworks and research methodologies, explores critical elements, and connects learning analytics with psychology and human understanding.

**Student Learning Outcomes**
By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Define learning analytics and differentiate it from related fields.
- Describe the development of learning analytics as an academic and research field.
- Assess learning analytics opportunities and issues in different contexts.
- Identify key theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches in learning analytics.
- Consider critical learning analytics elements, such as privacy and ethics.
- Recognize and track emerging trends in learning analytics research and practice.
- Connect how learning analytics contributes to existing psychology research.
- Plan a learning analytics initiative to address a specific educational problem.

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials**
There are no required texts to purchase for this course. Any course materials are either publicly available or can be accessed through the UTA Library.

**Descriptions of Course Assignments**

Reflections 30%
After completing specific topics in the course materials, you will have the opportunity to reflect on prompts through the discussion forums. Given the size of the class, I will not require any peer-based discussion; however, you are encouraged to do so if you wish. Responses should be thoughtful and thorough enough to address the prompt.

Annotated Bibliography 20%
After completing a course theme (three weeks each), you will search for and identify an academic source (book, article, report, etc.) related to one of the theme's topics to create an annotated bibliography. You will include the title, citation, brief summary, and evaluation for each source.

Presentation 25%
As you move throughout the course, you will encounter different papers over various topics. For this activity, you will identify three papers that resonate with you most and develop a presentation on their key elements. The presentation should take approximately fifteen minutes to complete.

LA Initiative Plan 25%
After completing all course materials, you will develop a comprehensive preliminary learning analytics initiative plan related to your context that considers and incorporates elements of all course themes.

**Technology Requirements**
This course will primarily take place in Canvas, with some synchronous times and office hours in Zoom or MS Teams.

**Other Requirements**
You will also be invited to attend online events during the duration of the course (and the program in general). These events may require additional technologies not detailed above.

## Grading Information

**Grading**

I will post grades on Canvas following each assignment. The grade scale is as follows:

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Reflections: | 30% (2.5% each – 12 total) |
| Annotated Bibliography: | 20% (5% each – 4 total) |
| Presentation: | 25% |
| Initiative Plan: | 25% |

**There is no extra credit.** The best predictor of a good grade is regular engagement with the course and assigned material each week.

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study**
Students in this course should expect to spend at least 6-9 hours per week in course-related activities, including reading and viewing required materials, preparing and completing assignments, or attending live sessions.

**Grade Grievances**
Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog.

## Course Schedule

As the instructor, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.

A week opens on Monday and ends on a Sunday evening.

All assignments are due by Sunday at 11:59pm US CT to be considered on time. Late work is only accepted at the discretion of the instructor and every effort should be made to submit by the deadline.

| Week | Dates | Topic | Continuous Assessment | Additional Assessments | Comment |
|------|-------|-------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|
| W1 | Jan 17 – Jan 23 | Onboarding | N/A | | Course Introductions |
| W2 | Jan 24 – Jan 30 | Situating LA #1 | Reflection 1 | | Defining LA |
| W3 | Jan 31 – Feb 6 | Situating LA #2 | Reflection 2, 3 | | Opportunity/Issues/Ex. |
| W4 | Feb 7 – Feb 13 | Theory/Methods #1 | Reflection 4 | Annotated Bib 1 | Theory |
| W5 | Feb 14 – Feb 20 | Theory/Methods #2 | Reflection 5 | | Methods |
| W6 | Feb 21 – Feb 27 | Theory/Methods #3 | Reflection 6 | | Methods, continued |
| W7 | Feb 28 – Mar 6 | Data/Privacy/Ethics #1 | Reflection 7 | Annotated Bib 2 | Data Types/Sources |
| W8 | Mar 7 – Mar 13 | Data/Privacy/Ethics #2 | Reflection 8 | | Privacy/Ethics/Bias |
| | Mar 14 – Mar 20 | | | | Spring Break |
| W9 | Mar 21 – Mar 27 | Data/Privacy/Ethics #3 | Reflection 9 | | Attend LAK'22 |
| W10 | Mar 28 – Apr 3 | LA/Psych/Trends #1 | Reflection 10 | Annotated Bib 3 | LA/Psychology |
| W11 | Apr 4 – Apr 10 | LA/Psych/Trends #2 | Reflection 11 | | LA/Psychology, continued |
| W12 | Apr 11 – Apr 17 | LA/Psych/Trends #3 | Reflection 12 | | Trends |
| W13 | Apr 18 – Apr 24 | | | Annotated Bib 4 | |
| W14 | Apr 25 – May 1 | | | Presentation | |
| W15 | May 2 – May 8 | | | Initiative Plan | |

## Institutional Information

UTA students are encouraged to review the following institutional policies and informational sections and reach out to the specific office with any questions. To view this institutional information, please visit the Institutional Information page (https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php) which includes the following policies among others:
- Drop Policy
- Disability Accommodations
- Title IX Policy
- Academic Integrity
- Student Feedback Survey
- Final Exam Schedule

## Additional Information

### Master of Science in Learning Analytics Orientation and Resource Hub
This Orientation and Resource Hub is a central resource for students in the master's program. It has all critical information related to the program, any events, UTA resources, and training for new students. The hub is not available for students who are not enrolled in the MSLA program, but many resources will be shared through course announcements.

### Departmental and Program Assistance
If you have any questions about the MSLA program, please contact Justin T. Dellinger, Ph.D. at jdelling@uta.edu.

### Attendance
At the University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator of student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. No attendance will be formally taken in this course; however, students are expected to participate weekly in order to complete all required activities.

While UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report must the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Canvas. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

### Academic Success Center
The Academic Success Center (ASC) includes a variety of resources and services to help you maximize your learning and succeed as a student at the University of Texas at Arlington.  ASC services include supplemental instruction, peer-led team learning, tutoring, mentoring and TRIO SSS.  Academic Success Center services are provided at no additional cost to UTA students. For additional information visit:  Academic Success Center.  To request disability accommodations for tutoring, please complete this form.

### The English Writing Center
The Writing Center offers **FREE** tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at the Writing Center (https://uta.mywconline.com). Classroom visits,

workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see Writing Center: OWL for detailed information on all our programs and services.

**Library Information**
Each academic unit has access to Librarians by Academic Subject that can assist students with research projects, tutorials on plagiarism and citation references as well as support with databases and course reserves.

**Research or General Library Help**
Ask for Help
- Academic Plaza Consultation Services (library.uta.edu/academic-plaza)
- Ask Us (ask.uta.edu/)
- Research Coaches (http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach)

Resources
- Library Tutorials (library.uta.edu/how-to)
- Subject and Course Research Guides (libguides.uta.edu)
- Librarians by Subject (library.uta.edu/subject-librarians)
- A to Z List of Library Databases (libguides.uta.edu/az.php)
- Course Reserves (https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves)
- Study Room Reservations (openroom.uta.edu/)