

## UNIV 2020 – Comets to the Core Assessment

Fall 2022

**This course does not meet face-to-face. All course content is available in eLearning or Comets to the Core website.**

### Contact Information

Instructor: Lance Kyle Bennett

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Comets to the Core website: [core.utdallas.edu](http://core.utdallas.edu)

Office Hours: Fridays from 9AM-Noon (via Teams – see eLearning course page for more information).

### Course Description

UNIV 2020 – Comets to the Core Assessment (0 credit hours) is a graduation requirement for all first-time college freshmen. Freshmen are encouraged to register for the course in order to provide a baseline measure of students' critical thinking, written and oral communication, empirical and quantitative skills, teamwork, personal and social responsibility for UTD's core curriculum assessment process (Comets to the Core Project).

The Comets to the Core Project requires students to work individually and in small teams to analyze several solutions to a complex world problem. **For Fall 2022, students will focus on the issue of sustainable public transportation in the City of Dallas.** This topic aligns with the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #11 of Sustainable Cities and Communities](#). Additional information related to the Comets to the Core Project are available in eLearning or the [Comets to the Core website](#).

Students will complete the following assignments as part of the Comets to the Core Project:

1. Perceived skills assessment.
2. Short essay (2-3 pages) in response to a series of questions related to your project.
3. Group contract.
4. Group video pitch (5-7 minutes) to potential investors and/or a grant review board as if they are attempting to secure funding to implement your solution.
5. Evaluation and reflection survey.

### Student Learning Objective/Outcomes

In this course, students will:

1. Collaborate with peers to develop a solution to a real-world problem.
2. Analyze research to identify how they can alleviate social problems in the real world.
3. Identify the social, political, environmental, and economic components of a complex world problem, and will provide a solution that addresses sustainability in each of those areas.

## Readings and Materials

The selected readings for the Comets to the Project are provided in the UNIV 2020 course page in eLearning. **The readings will be used as a basis for the written response and group presentation. Students are encouraged to use these readings to become familiar with the issue and potential solutions before beginning their assignments.**

## Course Calendar

The following calendar is a timeline for Comets to the Core Project completion:

Date	Weekly Tasks
Week 1: August 22 <sup>nd</sup> – August 26 <sup>th</sup>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Review assignment purpose and prompt</li><li>2. Learn about project topic and solutions through course readings and materials</li><li>3. Identify which solutions best address the problem compared to proposed solutions</li><li>4. Complete perceived skills assessment.</li></ol>
Week 2: August 29 <sup>th</sup> – September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Begin 2-3 page individual essay.</li></ol>
Week 3: September 5 <sup>th</sup> – September 9 <sup>th</sup>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Groups formed the day <b>after Census Day</b>. Please contact partners for group presentation.</li><li>2. Submit group contract assignment</li><li>3. Review instructions and tips for video recording.</li></ol>
Week 4: September 12 <sup>th</sup> – September 16 <sup>th</sup>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Meet with group partners to discuss solutions to topic problem.</li><li>2. Develop presentation.</li><li>3. Submit individual essay</li></ol>
Week 5: September 19 <sup>th</sup> – September 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Submit video presentation</li><li>2. Submit evaluation and reflection survey</li></ol>

## Grading Policy

UNIV 2020 follows a **Credit/No-Credit (CR/NC)** grading scheme based on the quality of work submitted. If a student does not complete the Comets to the Core will receive **no credit (NC)** for the course. UNIV 2020 grades appear on students' transcripts but will not affect students' cumulative grade point average.

## Course Policies

### *Make-up work*

Students who do not complete the Comets to the Core project by the due date **September 23, 2022** will receive a registration hold. However, students will have an opportunity to release the hold by completing an alternative assignment. Students placed on a registration hold will be notified of their alternative assignment option before spring registration begins in early November 2022.

### *Late Work*

Late work will not be accepted. If you feel you are unable to complete the Comets to the Core project because of unresponsive teammates, please email your concerns to [core@utdallas.edu](mailto:core@utdallas.edu) **no later than September 15, 2022.**

### *Class Attendance*

There will be no in-class meetings for this course. Students are encouraged to hold virtual meetings with their teammates to discuss topics related to their project. Students can use whichever system of communication works best for the entire group. The assignment is also used to measure social and personal responsibility. **Therefore, self-discipline throughout your interactions with teammates is extremely critical for the project.**

### *Classroom Citizenship*

The quality of the online learning environment is contingent on respect and dedication to learning. While you are fully encouraged to engage the issues to the best of your abilities, please do so politely and constructively. If you disagree with a teammate's argument(s), submit a proper and engaging rebuttal, not an attack. Debate is a healthy part of learning, so please do not hinder the learning environment by responding harshly or inappropriately to others.

### **Comet Creed**

*This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:*

*"As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."*

### **UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures**

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

***The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***