



**Department:** Business Leadership  
**Course Title:** Problem Solving and Decision Making  
**Section Name:** BMGT 2303 12013  
**Semester:** Fall 2013  
**Time:** TTH 10:00-11:20 am  
**Classroom:** Sedate Hall 210-2

**Instructor:** Connie Nichols  
**Email:** [cnichols@odessa.edu](mailto:cnichols@odessa.edu)  
**Office:** Sedate Hall 208  
**Phone:** 432-335-6521  
**Office Hours:** M 8:00-8:30am; 10:00-12:00, 5:00-5:30 (City)  
T 9:00-10:00 am, 1:30-3:30 pm  
W 8:00-8:30 am; 10:00am-12:00 pm, 5:15-5:45 pm  
TH 9:00-10:00 am  
F by appointment

#### **Course Description:**

BMGT 2303 Problem Solving and Decision Making (52.0201) (3-0) 3 hours Decision making and problem solving processes in organizations, utilizing logical and creative problem solving techniques. Application of theory is provided by experiential activities using managerial decision tools. End-of-course outcomes: identify individual, group and organizational decision-making processes; and apply process to solving problems using managerial decision tools. Lab fee required. (ICOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) Prerequisite: None.

#### **Required Texts:**

Secrets of Power Problem Solving by Roger Dawson. Career Press. ISBN 978-1-60163-152-7

#### **Description of Institutional Core Objectives (ICO's)**

Given the rapid evolution of necessary knowledge and skills and the need to take into account global, national, state, and local cultures, the core curriculum must ensure that students will develop the essential knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, in a career, in their communities, and in life. Therefore, with the assistance of the Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee, the Coordinating Board has approved guidelines for a core curriculum for all undergraduate students in Texas.

Through the application and assessment of objectives within the institution's core curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world; develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world; and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning. Appropriate Odessa College faculty periodically evaluates all of the courses listed in the descriptions on the following pages of this catalog and keys them to Odessa College's Institutional Core Objectives (ICOs), as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). (Source: *Odessa College Catalog of Courses 2013-2014*, page 69)

**Odessa College's Institutional Core Objectives (ICOs):**

- 1) *Critical Thinking Skills* - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- 2) *Communication Skills* - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- 3) *Empirical and Quantitative Skills* - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- 4) *Teamwork* - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- 5) *Personal Responsibility* - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
- 6) *Social Responsibility* - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

**Learning Outcomes for BMGT 2303** (Source: *Odessa College Catalog of Courses* page 92)

Learning Outcome	ICO
Student will identify individual, group, and organizational decision-making processes	<i>Critical Thinking Skills</i> - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
Student will apply process to solving problems using managerial decision tools	<i>Communication Skills</i> - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication <i>Teamwork</i> - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
Student will attend community leadership meetings	<i>Personal Responsibility</i> - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making <i>Social Responsibility</i> - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

**Odessa College Policies****Academic Policies**

Note that the OC Student Handbook states (page 32) that “[i]n cases of academic dishonesty, the instructor has the authority to impose appropriate scholastic penalties. Complaints or appeals of disciplinary sanctions may be filed in accordance with the college due process procedure. Copies of the college due process procedure are available in the office of The Director of Student Life (CC104).”

For more information on your rights and responsibilities as a student at Odessa College, please refer to the following: *The 411 of OC: Student Handbook 2012-2013; Student Rights & Responsibilities* <http://www.odessa.edu/dept/studenthandbook/handbook.pdf>

**Scholastic Dishonesty**

Scholastic dishonesty shall constitute a violation of these rules and regulations and is punishable as prescribed

by board policies. Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but not be limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism and collusion.

**"Cheating on a test" shall include:**

- Copying from another student's test paper
- Using test materials not authorized by the person administering the test.
- Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test without permission from the test administrator.
- Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing or soliciting, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.
- The unauthorized transporting or removal, in whole or in part, of the contents of the unadministered test.
- Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for one's self, to take a test.
- Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.
- "Plagiarism" shall be defined as the appropriating, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own written work.
- "Collusion" shall be defined as the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements. (Source: *Odessa College Student Handbook 2012-2013, page 29-30*)

**Special Populations/Disability Services/Learning Assistance**

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability services at 432-335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

Odessa College affirms that it will provide access to programs, services and activities to qualified individuals with known disabilities as required by **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)**, unless doing so poses an undue hardship or fundamentally alters the nature of the program or activity. Disabilities may include hearing, mobility or visual impairments as well as hidden disabilities such as chronic medical conditions (arthritis, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, kidney disorders, lupus, seizure disorders, etc.), learning disabilities or psychiatric or emotional disabilities. A student who comes to Odessa College with diagnosed disabilities which may interfere with learning may receive accommodations when the student requests them and submits proper documentation of the diagnosis. A Request for Accommodations form and guidelines for beginning the request process are available in the OC Help Center or on the Odessa College web site at [www.odessa.edu/dept/counseling/disabilities.htm](http://www.odessa.edu/dept/counseling/disabilities.htm). The college strives to provide a complete and appropriate range of services for students with disabilities such as assistance with testing, registration, information on adaptive and assistive equipment, tutoring, assistance with access and accommodations for the classroom where appropriate. For information regarding services, students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services in the OC Help Center located in Room 204 of the Student Union Building or call 432-335-6433. (Source: *Odessa College Catalog of Courses 2013-2014, page 48*)

**Dropping a Course or Withdrawing from College**

Students wishing to drop a non-developmental course may do so online using WebAdvisor, at the Wrangler Express, or Registrar's Office. A student wishing to drop a developmental course or withdraw from college should obtain a drop or withdrawal form from the Wrangler Express or the Registrar's Office. Students are encouraged to consult with instructors prior to dropping a class. Students may not completely withdraw from the college by use of the Web. Students must drop a class or withdraw from college before the official withdrawal date stated in the class schedule. Students who are part of the Armed Forces Reserves may withdraw with a full refund if the withdrawal is due to their being ordered into active duty. A copy of the student's orders must be presented to the Registrar's Office at the time of the withdrawal. For details, please

contact the Office of the Registrar. **No longer attending class does not automatically constitute withdrawal from that class, nor does a student's notification to an instructor that the student wishes to be dropped. Failure of a student to complete the drop/withdrawal process will result in a grade of "F."**  
(Source: *Odessa College Catalog of Courses 2013-2014*, page 34)

### **Learning Resource Center (LRC; Library)**

The Library, known as the Learning Resources Center, provides research assistance via the LRC's catalog (print books, videos, e-books) and databases (journal and magazine articles). Research guides covering specific subject areas, tutorials, and the "Ask a Librarian" service provide additional help.

### **Student Success Center (SCC)**

Located in the LRC, the Student Success Center (SSC) provides assistance to students in meeting their academic and career goals. We strive to provide new and updated resources and services at no charge to OC students. Academic support services include tutoring, study skills training, workshops, and the mentoring program. Tutoring is available for a variety of subjects including college mathematics, English, government, history, speech, chemistry, biology, and all developmental coursework. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins will be served as soon as possible. Smarthinking online tutoring is also available. All computers in the center have Internet access, Microsoft Office, and software resources to assist OC students in improving their reading, writing and mathematical skills. The center also offers special assistance to students preparing for the THEA/COMPASS test. Computer lab assistants are available to assist students with student email, Blackboard, OC portal, Course Compass and more. For more information or to make an appointment, please call 432-335-6673 or visit [www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/](http://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/) (Source: *Odessa College Catalog of Courses 2013-2014*, page 49)

**Student Evaluation of Instruction:** The SEI process for face-to-face and online courses is scheduled for November 18 – 22, 2013.

**Design for Completion:** As part of the Design for Completion initiative, your Odessa College Student Success Coach and faculty mentor will help you stay focused and on track to complete your educational goals. If an instructor sees that you might need additional help or success coaching, he or she may submit a Retention Alert. Your Student Success Coach or faculty mentor will contact you to work toward a solution.

**Accrediting:** Odessa College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate degrees and certificates. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Odessa College.

General inquiries about Odessa College, such as admission requirements, financial aid, educational programs, etc., should be addressed directly to the College and not to the Commission's office.

### **Student E-mail**

Please access your Odessa College Student E-mail, by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **Correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email as an alternative method to contact you with information regarding this course.**

### **Technical Support**

For Blackboard username and password help and for help accessing your online course availability and student email account contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-6878 or online at [https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk\\_form.htm](https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm).

## **Expectations for Engagement – Face to Face Learning**

To help make the learning experience fulfilling and rewarding, the following Expectations for Engagement provide the parameters for reasonable engagement between students and instructors for the learning environment. Students and instructors are welcome to exceed these requirements.

### *Reasonable Expectations of Engagement for Instructors*

1. As an instructor, I understand the importance of clear, timely communication with my students. In order to maintain sufficient communication, I will
  - provided my contact information at the beginning of the syllabus;
  - respond to all messages in a timely manner through telephone, email, or next classroom contact; and,
  - notify students of any extended times that I will be unavailable and provide them with alternative contact information (for me or for my supervisor) in case of emergencies during the time I'm unavailable.
2. As an instructor, I understand that my students will work to the best of their abilities to fulfill the course requirements. In order to help them in this area, I will
  - provide clear information about grading policies and assignment requirements in the course syllabus, and
  - communicate any changes to assignments and/or to the course calendar to students as quickly as possible.
3. As an instructor, I understand that I need to provide regular, timely feedback to students about their performance in the course. To keep students informed about their progress, I will
  - return classroom activities and homework within one week of the due date and
  - provide grades for major assignments within 2 weeks of the due date or at least 3 days before the next major assignment is due, whichever comes first.

### *Reasonable Expectations of Engagement for Students*

1. As a student, I understand that I am responsible for keeping up with the course. To help with this, I will
  - attend the course regularly and line up alternative transportation in case my primary means of transportation is unavailable;
  - recognize that the college provides free wi-fi, computer labs, and library resources during regular campus hours to help me with completing my assignments; and,
  - understand that my instructor does not have to accept my technical issues as a legitimate reason for late or missing work if my personal computer equipment or internet service is unreliable.
2. As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to communicate quickly with the instructor any issue or emergency that will impact my involvement with or performance in the class. This includes, but is not limited to,
  - missing class when a major test is planned or a major assignment is due;
  - having trouble submitting assignments;
  - dealing with a traumatic personal event; and,
  - having my work or childcare schedule changed so that my classroom attendance is affected.
3. As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to understand course material and requirements and to keep up with the course calendar. While my instructor is available for help and clarification, I will
  - seek out help from my instructor and/or from tutors;
  - ask questions if I don't understand; and,
  - attend class regularly to keep up with assignments and announcements.

## Design for Completion

As part of the Design for Completion initiative, your Odessa College Student Success Coach and faculty mentor will help you stay focused and on track to complete your educational goals. If an instructor sees that you might need additional help or success coaching, he or she may submit a Retention Alert. Your Student Success Coach or faculty mentor will contact you to work toward a solution.

## Institutional Calendar Fall 2013

[http://www.odessa.edu/catalog/schedule/FA13/pg03\\_academic-calendar.pdf](http://www.odessa.edu/catalog/schedule/FA13/pg03_academic-calendar.pdf)

### Registration:

On the Web (5 am to Midnight, 7 days a week).....	Apr 15-Aug 25
In Person (See Business Hours Above).....	Apr 15-Aug 23
FOR TUITION AND FEE SCHEDULES & PAYMENT INFORMATION, PLEASE CHECK ONLINE AT <a href="http://www.odessa.edu">www.odessa.edu</a>	
Classes Begin.....	Aug 26 (Mon)
Late Registration & Schedule Changes (Add/Drop):	
On the Web (5 am to Midnight, 7 days a week).....	Aug 26-27 (Mon-Tues)
In Person (See Business Hours Above).....	Aug 26-27 (Mon-Tues)
Holiday (Labor Day – Offices closed except for Wrangler Express – No Classes).....	Sep 2 (Mon)
Census Day.....	Sep 11 (Wed)
Last Day to Drop or Withdraw with a “W” (1st eight week courses).....	Oct 4 (Fri)
First Eight Weeks End.....	Oct 18 (Fri)
Second Eight Weeks Begin.....	Oct 21 (Mon)
Deadline for Fall Degree Application.....	Nov 1 (Fri)
Last Day to Drop or Withdraw with a “W” (full semester length courses).....	Nov 12 (Tues)
Last Day to Drop or Withdraw with a “W” (2nd eight week courses).....	Nov 26 (Tues)
Student Evaluation of Instruction Survey Available Online.....	Nov 18-22 (Mon-Fri)
Thanksgiving Holiday (begins 9 pm Tues, Nov 26).....	Nov 27-30 (Thurs-Sat)
Last Class Day.....	Dec 7 (Sat)
Final Exams.....	Dec 9-12 (Mon-Thurs)
End of Semester.....	Dec 12 (Thurs)
Fall Graduation.....	Dec 14 (Sat)
College Offices Closed.....	Dec 21-Jan 5 (Sat-Sun)

## Course Policies

### Disclaimer

This syllabus is tentative and subject to change in any part at the discretion of the instructor. Any changes will be in accordance with Odessa College policies. Students will be notified of changes, if any, in timely manner.

### Original Effort

The work submitted for this course must be original work prepared by the student enrolled in this course. Efforts will be recognized and graded in terms of individual participation and in terms of ability to collaborate with other students in this course.

### Description of students

Students enrolled in this course are Odessa College students majoring in career and technical programs or OC students who have an interest in studying business leadership.

### Course prerequisites

None (Source: *Odessa College Catalog of Courses 2013-2014, page 92*)

### Digital Protocol

Cell phones must be placed on either *vibrate* or *silent* mode and are to be accessed in emergency cases only. The use of laptops or any other digital device is permitted in order to facilitate note-taking relative to instruction. **Computers/printers are available to OC students in the LRC (301-303); therefore, not having access to a computer due to technical issues (crash; corrupted files) will not be considered as an acceptable reason for not completing assignments.** If there is a loss of server connection with Odessa College due to maintenance, then an email will be sent to student with pertinent information and status reports.

**Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Attendance will be recorded using a “sign-in” sheet. Excessive absences will be grounds for disciplinary action, and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. If you are more than 15 minutes late to class or leave class early without notifying the instructor, this will count as an absence. Students receive points for every class attended.

**AVID**

This course has been identified as a course by Career, Technical, and Workforce Education as one in which teaching and learning strategies adopted by AVID will be implemented. As a student in the legal program, you will be expected to develop an understanding of the strategies, to model the strategies, to maintain fidelity of implementation, and to examine how these strategies may impact your effectiveness as a professional in your chosen area of occupation, either through coursework or practicum experience as outlined by the course instructor.

**Grading Policy**

Please understand that this is a required course for the Business Leadership program in order to prepare you successful employment. Quality work and active participation is expected and not to be negotiated. As a general policy, grades will be taken in class. Any written assignments or tests will be graded outside of class. You can expect feedback on assignments within a week’s time.

**Grade Inquiry Policy**

It is the responsibility of the individual taking this course to maintain accurate track of assignment submissions and grades. There will be opportunities during the semester to meet with the instructor to discuss your academic progress. Contact the instructor to schedule an appointment. Class time will not be used for grade inquiries. All grades are final.

**Communication Plan**

The best way to communicate with the course instructor is via email. Also, check in Blackboard regularly for announcements, including any changes in the course schedule due to instructor illness or conference attendance. Appointments with the instructor may also be scheduled.

**General Course Requirements**

This is a college level course and you will, therefore, be expected to uphold established college standards as outlined in the most recent Odessa College Catalog. Your final grade will be based upon a combination of the following factors:

1. Preparedness
2. Purposeful participation in the classroom discussion
3. Ability to relate and apply the concepts discussed in the course
4. Scores on exams, projects, and other assignments
5. Attendance of a minimum of 4 community leadership meetings
6. Score on final exam

**Grading Scale:**

“A” = 90-100

“B” = 80-89

“C” = 70-79

“D” = 60-69

“F” = 0-59

## Incomplete Policy

An 'Incomplete' grade may be given only if:

1. The student has passed all completed work
2. If he/she has completed a minimum of 75% of the required coursework. A grade of an "I" will only be assigned when the conditions for completions have been discussed and agreed upon by the instructor and the student.

## Departmental and Instructor Course Requirements, Evaluation Methods and Grading Policy:

There are projects and/or assignments associated with this course as well as a Final Exam. Each assignment must be completed and turned in by the due date. Check the Schedule below for details. Students are required to attend a minimum of 4 community leadership meetings during the each semester. Check the meeting page on the instructor's website for a list of organizations, meeting dates and times, and instructions.

- Class Participation 25%
- Skills Exercises 15%
- Group Exercises 30%
- Community Leadership Meetings 10%
- Project Presentation - Final Exam 20%

## Schedule (Tentative and Subject to Change)



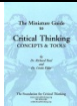
Holidays: September 2, 2013 – Labor Day (College Closed)

November 27-30, 2013 – Thanksgiving (College Closed)

Last Day to Drop: November 12, 2013

Last Class Day: December 6, 2013

Graduation December 14, 2013

Date	Topic	Assignment
Week 1 8-27/29	Course Introduction Right Brain/Left Brain Exercises	Read 
Week 2 9-03/05	Sudoku Puzzles Secrets of Power Problem Solving Discussion	Complete Sudoku Puzzles Read 
Week 3 9-10/12	Secrets of Power Problem Solving Discussion - continued	
Week 4 9-17/19	Hercules Welding Case Problems	Problems 1-3
Week 5 9-24/26	Hercules Welding Case Problems	Problems 4 & 5 Read Critical Thinking book
Week 6 10-01/03	 Critical Thinking Group Work	Prepare Group Presentations
Week 7 10-08/10	Critical Thinking Presentations	
Week 8		



Date	Topic	Assignment
10-15/17	Apollo 13 – Mid-term	Mid-term Assignment
Week 9 10-22/24	Apollo 13 Discussion Creativity	
Week 10 10-29/31	Everyday Creativity Video and Discussion Creativity Activities	
Week 11 11-05/07	Decision-Making Process & Tools	
Week 12 11-12/14	Group Assignments	Prepare Group Presentations
Week 13 11-19/21	Group Work –presentations	
Week 14 11-26/28	Group Presentations Thanksgiving	
Week 15 12-03/05	-Battle LA - Final	
Week 16 12-10	Battle LA Assignment due - Final	

## STUDENT SUCCESS DISCOUNT

### 10%Discount:

Upon completion of 30 credit hours of college-level courses with a 2.0 GPA, students are eligible for a 10% tuition discount on future registrations until reaching 45 credit hours.

### 20% Discount:

Upon completion of 45 credit hours of college-level courses with a 2.0 GPA, students are eligible for a 20% tuition discount on future registrations until reaching 60 credit hours.