



**ACAD 501: Creator's Mindset**

**Units: 4**

**Term—Day—Time: T, TH 3:00-4:50**

**Location:** TBD

**Instructor: Douglas Thomas**

**Office:** Online

**Office Hours:** By Appt

**Contact Info:** [douglast@usc.edu](mailto:douglast@usc.edu)

**IT Help:** Group to contact for technological services, if applicable.

**Hours of Service:**

**Contact Info:** Email, phone number (office, cell), Skype, etc.

## Course Description

### Learning Objectives and Outcomes

The goal of this course is to introduce the concept of the Creator's Mindset, a world view that defines and contributes to innovative thinking, gives birth to new ideas and provides a context of revolutionary and creating thinking. The course examines exemplars which typify this mode of thought and gives students hands on experience putting these ideas into practice both by analyzing the creator's mindset as well as producing a final project.

**Prerequisite(s):** None

**Co-Requisite(s):** None

### Course Notes

The course will follow a cases study/thematic approach, with lectures by faculty and a guest lecture for each theme.

**Concurrent Enrollment:** None

**Recommended Preparation:** None

### Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

Readings available on Blackboard (listed on syllabus schedule)

Books (listed on syllabus schedule) available at USC Bookstore

### Description and Assessment of Assignments

Students will complete two major projects for the class.

#### Creator's Mindset Analysis

Following the structure of the class, each student will complete a 7-10 page essay that identifies someone they feel exemplifies the creator's mindset as defined in class. The paper will be evaluated based on how three criteria: The appropriateness of the person/topic selected, their ability to assess that person in terms of the class criteria for exemplifying the creator's mindset, and the quality of writing, analysis and research presented in their written work.

#### Student Project

Each student will present a final project that is their own effort to embody the concept of the creator's mindset. There will be three stages for the development of the project:

1. Submission of the project topic. All students will submit a "project pitch" which will be no more than 500 words and which will provide a project goal, a timeline, and a description of the final deliverable.
2. Review of literature. Students will complete a review of the relevant literature, which may include an analysis of similar projects, competitors, case studies, or academic research relevant to their topic.
3. Final Project and Presentation. For the final exam, students will present and demonstrate their final project in a formal class presentation.

## Grading Breakdown

Including the above detailed assignments, how will students be graded overall? Participation should be no more than 15%, unless justified for a higher amount. All must total 100%.

Assignment	Points	% of Grade
Project Pitch	10	10
Review of Literature	10	10
Creator's Mindset Paper	40	40
Final Project	25	25
Final Presentation	15	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

## Grading Scale (Example)

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

## Assignment Submission Policy

Project will be submitted via BlackBoard  
Final projects will be submitted in the final in class session.

## Grading Timeline

Grades will be assigned within one week of assignment submission.

## Academy Student Attendance Policy

The Academy maintains rigorous academic standards for its students and on-time attendance at all class meetings is expected. Each student will be allowed two excused absences over the course of the semester for which no explanation is required. Students are admonished to not waste excused absences on non-critical issues, and to use them carefully for illness or other issues that may arise unexpectedly. Except in the case of prolonged illness or other serious issue (see below), no additional absences will be excused. Each unexcused absence will result in the lowering of the final grade by 1/3 of a grade (e.g., an A will be lowered to A-, an A- will be lowered to B+, etc.).

Students remain responsible for any missed work from excused or unexcused absences. Immediately following an absence, students should contact the instructor to obtain missed assignments or lecture notes and to confirm new deadlines or due dates. Extensions or other accommodations are at the discretion of the instructor.

Automatically excused absences normally may not be used for quiz, exam or presentation days. Using an excused absence for a quiz, exam or presentation, such as in the case of sudden illness or other emergency, is at the discretion of the instructor.

In the case of prolonged illness, family emergencies, or other unforeseen serious issues, the student should contact the instructor to arrange for accommodation. Accommodation may also be made for essential professional or career-related events or opportunities. All accommodations remain at the discretion of the instructor, and appropriate documentation may be required.

## Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

### Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](http://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, [policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct](http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct).

### Support Systems:

*Student Health Counseling Services - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call*  
[engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling](http://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling)

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call*  
[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call*  
[engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp](http://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp)

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) | Title IX - (213) 740-5086*  
[equity.usc.edu](http://equity.usc.edu), [titleix.usc.edu](http://titleix.usc.edu)

Information about how to get help or help a survivor of harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations.

*Bias Assessment Response and Support - (213) 740-2421*  
[studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support](http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support)

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions for appropriate investigation and response.

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776*  
[dsp.usc.edu](http://dsp.usc.edu)

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

*USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710*  
[studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa](http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa)

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

*Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101*

[diversity.usc.edu](http://diversity.usc.edu)

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

*USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu), [emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu)

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

*USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu)

Non-emergency assistance or information.