

Syllabus**CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS**

M/W, 9:00 am – 10:50 pm

EH 410 B1

Course Purpose

TE 598 is a hands-on, project-based introduction to Innovation-Driven Entrepreneurship. Throughout the term, you will work with your team to build a plan for your enterprise using a proven framework, the Disciplined Entrepreneurship. The course covers topics beyond the product realization aspect of starting a new venture. It is an intensive course for general entrepreneurship and company acceleration.

Student Outcomes

This course is targeted at anyone who wants to understand the process of launching a new venture. The course is also valuable for students interested in launching new ventures within existing organizations (e.g., corporations, government, non-profits, academic institutions), or people who want to be entrepreneurial ecosystem builders (e.g., what we call “entrepreneurship amplifiers”). This course will give you a solid understanding of what it takes to launch a new venture and a common language to use in entrepreneurial endeavors in the future.

Our primary goal is to equip you to launch a new venture through a programmatic process. A good analogy is that we are focused first and foremost on teaching you “how to fish” rather than focused on “catching a fish,” although the only real way of “catch a fish” is by fishing.”

NOTE REGARDING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

See the following link [StudentGuide_IP_General.pdf \(illinois.edu\)](#)

OFFICE HOURS

There are no official office hours for this course. Students can request 1-on-1 meetings with the instructor or any of the coaches, at any time, after checking availability.

INSTRUCTORS

JOHN S THODE jthode@illinois.edu

Richard and Gayle Landuyt Clinical Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The Grainger College of Engineering | Technology Entrepreneur Center

COACHES

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Craig Scherer

Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor, The Grainger College of Engineering

TEACHING ASSISTANT

TBD

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CLASS RESOURCES**Course Website:** [Spring 2026-TE 598-Accel Deep Tech Enterprises-Section ADT](#)**REQUIRED MATERIALS****Disciplined Entrepreneurship: 24 Steps to a Successful Startup (Wiley)**

Bill Aulet, ISBN: 9781394222537

Disciplined Entrepreneurship: Workbook (Wiley)

Bill Aulet, ISBN: 978-1-119-36579-2

This companion book will allow you to understand more deeply how to apply the concepts.

GRADING

20% individual deliverables, participation, and attendance

30% team deliverables

50% investor presentations

Individual participation and peer review

Class participation is expected. **please refrain from using your laptops, mobile devices, and tablets during class.** Classroom attendance is 100% required. Unavoidable absences due to illness, family emergencies, or religious holidays are excusable but please let your TAs know ahead of time. *More than two unexcused absences will reduce your final grade by up to a letter grade, independent of the overall grading scheme.*

In-class presentations and Team Deliverables

Much of the learning in New Enterprises comes from the shared experience of all groups. All teams must regularly prepare assignments for class presentation and discussion. See Canvas.

Four class sessions will be dedicated to full pitch presentations to seasoned VCs and investors.

Emergency Response Recommendations

Emergency response recommendations can be found at the following website:

<http://police.illinois.edu/emergency-preparedness/>. I encourage you to review this website and the campus building floor plans website within the first 10 days of class.

<http://police.illinois.edu/emergency-preparedness/building-emergency-action-plans/>.

Sexual Misconduct Reporting Obligation

The University of Illinois is committed to combating sexual misconduct. Faculty and staff members are required to report any instances of sexual misconduct to the University's Title IX Office. In turn, an individual with the Title IX Office will provide information about rights and options, including accommodations, support services, the campus disciplinary process, and law enforcement options.

A list of the designated University employees who, as counselors, confidential advisors, and medical professionals, do not have this reporting responsibility and can maintain confidentiality, can be found

here: wecare.illinois.edu/resources/students/#confidential. Other information about resources and reporting is available here: wecare.illinois.edu.

Academic Integrity

You are expected uphold the highest ethical standards, to be honest, and to practice academic integrity.

This includes doing original work and citing sources, including the work of other students. Please give special care to prepare high-quality submissions with proper grammar and spelling. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Student Code should also be considered as a part of this syllabus. Students should pay particular attention to Article 1, Part 4: Academic Integrity. Read the Code at the following URL: <http://studentcode.illinois.edu/>. Academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade. Every student is expected to review and abide by the Academic Integrity Policy:

<https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1/part4/1-401/>. Ignorance is not an excuse for any academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to read this policy to avoid any misunderstanding. Do not hesitate to ask the instructor if you are ever in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, cheating, or any other breach of academic integrity.

Religious Observances

Illinois law requires the University to reasonably accommodate its students' religious beliefs, observances, and practices in regard to admissions, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work requirements. You should examine this syllabus at the beginning of the semester for potential conflicts between course deadlines and any of your religious observances. If a conflict exists, you should notify your instructor of the conflict and follow the procedure at <https://odos.illinois.edu/community-of-care/resources/students/religious-observances/> to request appropriate accommodations. This should be done in the first two weeks of classes.

Disability-Related Accommodations

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES, you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-4603, email disability@illinois.edu or go to <https://www.disability.illinois.edu>. If you are concerned you have a disability-related condition that is impacting your academic progress, there are academic screening appointments available that can help diagnosis a previously undiagnosed disability. You may access these by visiting the DRES website and selecting "Request an Academic Screening" at the bottom of the page.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Any student who has suppressed their directory information pursuant to Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) should self-identify to the instructor to ensure protection of the privacy of their attendance in this course. See <https://registrar.illinois.edu/academic-records/ferpa/> for more information on FERPA.

Anti-Racism and Inclusivity Statement

The Grainger College of Engineering is committed to the creation of an anti-racist, inclusive community that welcomes diversity along a number of dimensions, including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity and national origins, gender and gender identity, sexuality, disability status, class, age, or religious beliefs. The College recognizes that we are learning together in the midst of the Black Lives Matter movement, that Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous voices and contributions have largely either been excluded from, or not recognized in, science and engineering, and that both overt racism and micro-aggressions threaten the well-being of our students and our university community.

The effectiveness of this course is dependent upon each of us to create a safe and encouraging learning environment that allows for the open exchange of ideas while also ensuring equitable opportunities and respect for all of us. Everyone is expected to help establish and maintain an environment where students, staff, and faculty can contribute without fear of personal ridicule, or intolerant or offensive language. If you witness or experience racism, discrimination, micro-aggressions, or other offensive behavior, you are encouraged to bring this to the attention of the course director if you feel comfortable. You can also report these behaviors to the Bias Assessment and Response Team (BART) (<https://bart.illinois.edu/>). Based on your report, BART members will follow up and reach out to students to make sure they have the support they need to be healthy and safe. If the reported behavior also violates university policy, staff in the Office for Student Conflict Resolution may respond as well and will take appropriate action.