

Spring 2022 Syllabi
GRA 6930 Seminar
& GRA 6931C Research and Practice
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Course Information

GRA 6931C Research & Practice—with Maria Rogal
GRA 6930 Seminar—with Dori Griffin
Meets Tu/Th | periods 5–7 | 11:45am–2:45pm | FAC 310
This course also requires community and out-of-class activities

Course Descriptions

GRA 6930 Seminar catalog description: Contemporary issues pertaining to design and visual communications and related areas. Discussion of literature, development of research questions, and framing methodologies. Corequisite: GRA 6931c: Research and Practice.

GRA 6931C Research & Practice catalog description: A rotating topics course focused on the integration of research and practice to address complex problems within diverse contexts. The study and use of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed research methods appropriate for an expanded practice are addressed through discussions, case studies, writing, fieldwork, and presentations. Prerequisite: MxD student or permission of instructor. Corequisite: GRA 6930 Seminar.

Instructors

Dori Griffin – dgriffin@arts.ufl.edu
Zoom office: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/6308683645>
Office hours meetings via Calendly: <https://calendly.com/dorigriffin/30-minute-meeting>
My Canvas/Teams message delivery is set to ON M-F 8am-5pm. @Tag or DM me if you need a quick reply. For DGS-related emergencies, I reply ASAP.

Maria Rogal — mrogal@ufl.edu
Office hours: [Zoom](#) Wednesdays 1:30–2:30pm. Inquire about appointments as needed.
DM me on Canvas or Teams if you need a quick reply. I usually reply to coursework related questions within 24 hours. Please note your deadlines and urgency. .

Course Learning Objectives

This course fosters knowledge building and skill development in the following areas:

1. Design: Develop a body of work(s) which includes visual communications artifacts, design systems, and design strategies and reflects original, creative, and innovative contributions.
2. Research: Identify and apply research concepts, methods. and activities that are contextual, respectful, and advance a co-design framework. Pursue visual

research in the form of process-driven iterations and informed by a literature review.

3. Communication: Creates a portfolio that organizes and communicates research, findings, proposals, and work products at a professional level with their intended audience using visual, verbal, and written skills. Disseminate research findings in public to further participate in disciplinary discourse.
4. Working with People: Collaborates and works effectively in interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary teams to develop approaches and solutions to complex problems.
5. Specialization: Develops expertise in an area of one's choosing to support professional goals (the "and" in "Design and _____")

Required Materials

Students studying in the Design and Visual Communications MFA program are required to have appropriate hardware, software, and access to the Internet and perform design and design-related tasks, including access to UF's Canvas, UF GSuite/Google Drive, Teams, OneDrive, and Adobe Creative Cloud. See [this website](#) for more details regarding hardware, software, specifications, and some purchasing options, including discounts for UF students.

Because computer access is an institutional requirement, computer costs are designated as allowable costs for students who qualify for Financial Aid. Accordingly, Student Financial Affairs has added costs for access to a computer into budgets. For more information, contact your financial adviser in the Office of Student Financial Affairs directly.

All course readings are posted on Canvas.

Coursework

As designers who conduct research and practice design in our community, and communicate our process to design colleagues and community members, we're constantly building relationships, learning from lived experiences, and developing new methods (or refining existing ones) that allow us to co-design better futures with and within our communities. Our focus is on developing horizontal co-design methodologies and practices in the local context of Gainesville and supported by a rich and richly documented process of research, literature review, and experiential learning. Use the [Chicago Manual of Style](#) (author, date) for all materials. Graded coursework includes the following; see individual assignments on Canvas for details:

Presentations (25%)

Visual, audio-visual, and/or written presentations for internal (program) and external (peer, public) dissemination.

Process (25%)

Weekly reflections on a meaningful moment of relevant learning, designed to our shared template for print/screen; 1:1 progress meetings with faculty; annotated bibliography.

Projects (50%)

Framing / development / production of deliverables is the assignment for both individual and collaborative projects.

Individual Project (25%)

Develop the AND portion of your “Design & _____” approach through a self-directed project. You are the primary stakeholder in this project.

Collaborative Project (25%)

Work with a partner organization or institution to operationalize participatory, horizontal social design within a community. Work either individually or in pairs, accountable to stakeholders both internal (MxD) and external (community collaborators).

During the first class meeting, we will review a roadmap for this course.

Grading Scale

LTR	MxD		% Scale	GPA
A	4	Consistently Exceeds ALL expectations	95 – 100%	4.0
A-			90 – 94%	3.67
B+	3	Meets, but does not exceed, ALMOST ALL to ALL expectations	87 – 89%	3.33
B			84 – 86%	3.0
B-	2	Meets MANY to MOST expectations	80 – 83%	2.67
C+			77 – 79%	2.33
C	1	Meets SOME to MANY expectations	74 – 76%	2.0
C-			70 – 73%	1.67
D+	0	Does not meet MOST or ALL expectations	67 – 69%	1.33
D			64 – 66%	1.0
D-			60 – 63	.67
E			<60	0

Attendance & Absences

Attendance is required for this class. You can miss two class days without penalty. Two late arrivals (after class begins) or early departures (before class is dismissed or ends) equal one absence. All unexcused absences after the first two cost –5 points each from the final grade (on a 100 point scale) in the course. More than 6 absences of any kind — missing more than 3 weeks of class — equals automatic course failure unless we make documented accommodations in advance. To receive an “excused” absence, you must do one of the following:

1. notify us before class begins if you will not be able to attend class due to an [emergency](#) situation.
2. notify us after class begins and provide official documentation of a university-sanctioned reason to receive an excused absence. Military service, varsity sports travel, and illness are common excused absences when documented by a written note from a commanding officer, coach, or doctor.

Regardless of the type of absence, you are still required to complete assignments, so it is vital that you contact us as soon as possible to discuss your options. It is your responsibility to keep track of your attendance record in Canvas. Requirements for class attendance, make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. Along with more information on how UF assigns grade points, you'll find these by visiting: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/>

UF Policies & Resources

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/> It's important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester. (If there's something I/we can do that you know to be helpful and functional for you, feel free to let Dori and/or Maria know informally.)

UF In-class Recording Policy

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor. A class lecture does not include lab/studio sessions, student presentations, academic exercises involving solely student participation, or private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

UF Evaluations Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult your instructors.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the [Notification to Students of FERPA Rights](#).

Health & Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: counseling.ufl.edu/cwc, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)
- Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
- University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or police.ufl.edu.

The Writing Studio

The Writing Studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.