Syllabus Spring 2026

GRA4186C SENIOR DESIGN STUDIO

Meets
- [Section C314] T/R | Periods 5-7 | 11:45 AM – 2:45 PM
- [Section C316] T/R | Periods 8-10 | 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Instructor Information
- Hyungjun Cho, Ph.D. (he/him/his)
- Assistant Professor in AI & Design
- email: hyungjuncho@ufl.edu | Preferred method for communication: email

Office Hours & Individual Meetings
- M/W | by appointment only
- FAC 313B or https://ufl.zoom.us/j/8068151998

Course Description and Objectives
- This is a senior-level design studio course focused on creating creative, innovative, and thoughtful design outcomes across a range of formats and media.
- The course centers on two major projects.
    - The first project is a design fiction assignment that engages with social, cultural, technological, and ethical issues. Students will explore alternative approaches to design that invite people into a particular topic and spark bold public dialogues. The theme is intentionally open, allowing each student to define their own direction based on personal interests.
    - The second project involves designing the embodiment of AI. Students will consider and make decisions about various visual and interaction elements, such as appearance, form, roles, and target users. The goal is to develop a cohesive, end-to-end design solution.
- For each project, students may work individually or form teams based on their preference.
    - If working in teams, the final presentation must clearly articulate each member's complementary contributions.
- During studio sessions, students will participate in small-group critiques and feedback sessions.
    - Depending on class needs, additional activities such as discussions, demos, and presentations may be incorporated.
    - A detailed timeline will be provided on Canvas and may be updated throughout the semester.
- The course aims to help students develop their creative capacity as designers while establishing a set of values they can confidently communicate. Students are expected to articulate the purpose, intention, and rationale behind their design decisions and present their work in a compelling and persuasive manner.

Expected Outcomes
- Two professional-level design works that meaningfully strengthen their design portfolio, increase their visibility as designers, and help solidify their identity.

Deliverables & Grading
- Project #1 —————————————————————————— 45%
  - Consistent, diligent, and thoughtful progress
  - Clearly explains what you did and why it matters
  - Demonstrates a high-quality and meaningful design outcome
- Project #2 —————————————————————————— 45%
  - Consistent, diligent, and thoughtful progress
  - Clearly explains what you did and why it matters
  - Demonstrates a high-quality and meaningful design outcome
- Attendance & Participation ——————————————————— 10%
  - Regular attendance and active participation in class discussion
  - Students must provide documentation to the instructor within one week of the missed class session. For details on excused absences, see the official UF Attendance Policies

- The percentages above indicate how much each component contributes to your total grade. The course follows the UF Grading Policies regarding grade points and letter grade interpretation.

A Note on Grading
- I don't grade your design work as if there is a single objective standard for what makes it "good." Nor do I believe I am the sole authority on evaluating your creativity.
- Instead, I focus on the thinking embedded in your work, the intentions behind your decisions, and your efforts to communicate those ideas clearly and persuasively. It is not just what you design, it is also how you explain, present, and reflect on it.
- Design, in many ways, is a form of communication. Every piece of writing or presentation is an opportunity to enhance how you convey meaning and value, not just form or function.

Course Evaluations
- Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Evaluations can be accessed in the following ways:
  - Via the email sent from GatorEvals
  - In Canvas under the GatorEvals menu
  - At the centralized portal: https://my-ufl.bluera.com
- Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at:
  - https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/
- Public summaries of course evaluation results are available at:
  - https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/

Textbooks & Materials
- There is no required textbook or mandatory material for this course.
- All reference materials will be provided through Canvas.
- Depending on the specific topic of their projects, students may need additional materials or access to specific equipment, which may involve extra costs.
    - For example, students may choose to use subscription-based AI coding services, and the Fab Lab is available but not free to use.
    - In most cases, project-related expenses can be managed or negotiated during the planning stage. Students are expected to discuss their project plans thoroughly with the instructor.

In-Class Recording Policy
- Students are permitted to record video or audio of class lectures under specific conditions. The only allowable purposes are:
    - For personal educational use
    - In connection with a university complaint
    - As evidence in a criminal or civil proceeding
- All other uses are prohibited. Students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. "To publish" means to share, distribute, or provide access to the recording—whether in whole or part—through any medium, including but not limited to social media, websites, books, or third-party note/tutoring services. Unauthorized publication may subject the student to legal action and disciplinary sanctions as outlined in UF Regulation 4.040.
- For full policy details, see: https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/class-recordings/

Academic Honesty
- UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge:
    - *"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.'*
- Violations of the Honor Code may result in sanctions. For more information, see the UF Student Conduct Code. Please consult with the instructor or TAs if you have any questions.

Accommodations
- Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Click here to get started with the DRC. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester. You may also let me know informally if there is something that I can do to support you in this course.

Academic and Student Support Resources

- E-learning Technical Support
    - UF Help Desk | 352-392-4357 | helpdesk@ufl.edu
- Career Connections Center
    - https://career.ufl.edu | Reitz Union Suite 1300 | 352-392-1601
- Library Support
    - Assistance with using the libraries or finding resources
    - https://uflib.ufl.edu/find/ask/ | ask@ufl.libanswers.com | 866-281-6309
- Teaching Center (Academic Support)
    - https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu
    - 1317 Turlington Hall | 352-392-2010 | teaching-center@ufl.edu
- Writing Studio
    - Help with brainstorming, formatting, and writing
    - https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/
    - Daytime: 2215 Turlington Hall | 352-846-1138
    - Evening: Library West Room 339
- Academic Complaints
    - Office of the Ombuds: https://ombuds.ufl.edu
    - Complaint submission portal:
      https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaint_Procedure.pdf
- UF Student Success Initiative
    - Academic, personal, and financial success resources: https://studentsuccess.ufl.edu/

Campus Health & Wellness

- UF Whole Gator
    - Resources to support physical, mental, and emotional well-being:
      https://one.uf.edu/whole-gator/discover

Syllabus Changes

- Please note that instructors may modify the course syllabus at any time. Notice of such changes will be announced quickly through Canvas.