

GRA 6930

DESIGNWRITING

CLASS NUMBER: 24892

MEETS: T/R 5-7 (11:45-2:45)

CLASSROOM: FAC 310

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dori Griffin

EMAIL: dgriffin@arts.ufl.edu

OFFICE: FAC 103

HOURS: Th 1:00-3:00

APPOINTMENTS & EMAILS:

If you can't meet during drop-in office hours we can schedule an appointment at another time; Wednesday afternoons usually offer the most flexibility. I routinely check/reply to email twice daily, M-F, around 8:00am and 4:30pm.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

3 hrs. 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.

COURSE CONTENT + OBJECTIVES:

This semester, the topic for GRA 6930 is "design writing." We'll explore traditional and emergent formats for disciplinary discourse through coursework and assignments designed to facilitate active participation in scholarly dialogues. We'll familiarize ourselves with the key components of these discourses and the communication processes specific to them. Along the way, we'll introduce ourselves to foundational and emergent literature related to selected themes, engage in critical conversations as a studio community, and explore how to build bridges between scholarship and practice.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Required readings – posted to the course Canvas site (download and print as needed)
MacBook Pro and Adobe CC subscription

EVALUATION:

30% Process / blogs, discussions, preparatory documents, individual meetings, field trips
35% Presentations / intro and guidance of class discussion; presentation of final text
35% Text / formal piece of scholarly communication, targeted to discipline-specific forum

GRADING SCALE:

The grading scale for this course is consistent with the current UF policy which can be viewed at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Letter / GPA / Percent

A / 4.00 / 100-93.4%
A- / 3.67 / 93.3-90.0%
B+ / 3.33 / 89.9-86.7%
B / 3.00 / 86.6-83.4%
B- / 2.67 / 83.3-80.0%
C+ / 2.33 / 79.9-76.7%
C / 2.00 / 76.6-73.4%
C- / 1.67 / 73.3-70.0%
D+ / 1.33 / 69.9-66.7%
D / 1.00 / 66.6-63.4%
D- / 0.67 / 63.3-60.0%
F / 0.00 / 59% or below

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COURSE CALENDAR, SUBJECT TO REVISION:

Part I: *Design & writing – participating in disciplinary conversations*

- Tu 01/07 Intro to class: design & writing, an introduction to formats and possibilities
- Tu 01/14 CFPs and abstracts
Due: CFP list, abstract draft, framework selections
- Tu 01/21 Library visit at 1:30
Due: finalized abstract (250-500 words) proposing design-writing project
- Tu 01/28 Conducting a literature review
Due: sample article annotation
- Tu 02/04 Traditional scholarly formats: journal articles, conference papers
Due: first five article annotations
- Tu 02/11 Alternative formats: visual essays, podcasts, film, design journalism
Due: all ten article annotations

Part II: *Contextual frameworks for graphic discourses*

- Tu 02/18 Framework: design for equity through community-driven place-making
Led by Dori
- Tu 02/25 Framework: _____ led by _____
Due: key research question + preliminary hypotheses from literature review
- Tu 03/03 Spring break
- Tu 03/10 Framework: _____ led by _____
Due: formal outline of paper/project
- Tu 03/17 Framework: _____ led by _____
- Tu 03/24 Framework: _____ led by _____
- Tu 03/31 Framework: _____ led by _____
Due: confirmation of fulfilled appointment at the Writing Studio
- Tu 04/07 Framework: _____ led by _____
Due: draft of paper/project for peer review

Part III: *Expanding the conversation in new directions*

- Tu 04/14 Presentation of final papers, part 1 (all written papers/projects due)
- Tu 04/21 Presentation of final papers, part 2 (Dori returns written drafts)
- Final W 04-29, 7:30-9:30am – corrected papers/projects due

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COURSE POLICIES – THE FINE PRINT:

ATTENDANCE: Attending all class meetings and individual appointments is a basic expectation of this course. If you need to miss a class or re-schedule an individual meeting due to unavoidable circumstances (illness, travel for a job interview, etc), please be in touch ahead of time to avoid a 5 point deduction per absence from the final grade in the course. More than three absences of any kind – missing more than three weeks of class – results in automatic failure of the course unless we make arrangements in advance to accommodate necessary and documented situations (such as serious illness). Two late arrivals or early departures equal one absence.

DEADLINES: As in the professional world, deadlines are firm and meeting them is critical. To earn full credit, assignments must be turned in when class begins on their due date. Late work loses 10 points from the project grade for each 24 hour day it's late, including work that's turned in after class begins on the due date. Emergency situations should be documented in writing with an official excuse like a doctor's note when you return to school; alternative arrangements can be made in advance for non-emergency, university-approved situations (illness, university travel), just email me *before* the deadline to make plans.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Electronic devices should be on silent mode before class begins. All electronics, including computers, should be off and put away during both process and final critiques. Please mute social media during all class periods. If your electronic devices disrupt a class, you'll be marked absent for that period.

ACCOMMODATIONS: 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.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: If you use words, images, or ideas that are not your own, cite them. Claiming the work of others as your own is a serious breach of professional ethics and will result in a failing grade in this class. The UF Honor Code specifies a number of other behaviors that violate this code and the possible sanctions. View the Honor Code online: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scrc/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>.

ONLINE EVALUATIONS: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last 2-3 weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they're open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

PROCESS: An engaged process of development is vital to design practice. Demonstrate commitment to process by: investing effort in process documents, completing readings ahead of class meetings, participating in discussions, seeking peer and instructor feedback about your work, and being punctual and prepared for all class meetings.

COMMUNICATION: A horizontal design methodology depends on direct and cooperative communication. If you have concerns or questions, please share them with me and we'll address them right away; I'll do the same for you. My primary goal in this course is to facilitate your process as you articulate and disseminate your design research. If you share with me what would be helpful (or not) for meeting your goals, I'll be much more effective in helping you reach them.