

# GRA 6930 | MxD Seminar | Fall 2020

## Topic: Visual Narratives

### course information:

class number: 21024  
meets: M 5-7 (11:45am–2:45pm) | Zoom + FAC310 (studio)  
instructor: Dr. Dori Griffin | email: dgriffin@arts.ufl.edu  
office + phone: paused for covid-19  
office hours: Th 1:00-3:00 + by appointment (on Zoom) | [schedule / link soon](#)

### appointments & emails:

If needed, we can schedule a Zoom meeting outside office hours. Th/F afternoons are usually most flexible. I routinely check/reply to email twice daily, M-F, around 8:00am and 4:30pm. You're also welcome to use the Microsoft Teams chat feature, but I can't always reply immediately.

### description:

Contemporary issues pertaining to design & visual communications and related areas. Discussion of literature, development of research questions, and framing methodologies. Prereq: DVC major student or permission of instructor; coreq: DVC 6931c Research & Practice.

### this semester's topic:

After consulting with everyone in Seminar with me last spring, we've settled on Visual Narratives for our topic this semester. What are the various existing options for writing/designing/making a visual narrative? Where can they be disseminated—for public and academic audiences? What's our responsibility as co-designers when we're collaboratively crafting visual narratives for stories that aren't ours? What kinds of workflows and strategies support horizontal design—in applied practice, not just theory? How do form, medium, language, and content come together effectively (or ineffectively) within a specific context? As a collaborative group, we'll encounter and analyze examples, explore methodologies and tools, and practice active, responsive listening. Simultaneously, each of you will propose, research, and craft a sustained visual narrative project related to your own emergent area of specialization. The only requirement for subject matter is that the narrative can't be (just) your own story; you need to choose someone(s) to collaborate with.

### required materials:

- In order for you to fully participate and meet course learning objectives, students taking graphic design courses are required to have appropriate hardware, software and access to the Internet. 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.

- Adobe Creative Cloud Suite (UF Student Discount available)
- Accounts on Microsoft Teams and GSuite
- Laptop that meets the requirements on the [SA+AH tech requirements](#) page.

### **grading:**

The grades in this class emerge from your active engagement with individual and collaborative activities, which we'll track using the Assignments tab. This includes process work—individually and collaboratively outside of class; scheduled meetings and critiques—during class; and research/design deliverables—uploaded to Canvas. We'll evaluate all your deliverables in multiple ways, at multiple points in every project. Feedback will be written and spoken, in words and images, synchronous and asynchronous, in peer groups, and individually with me. But I won't be grading your projects. Rather, you'll be setting and meeting individual goals for your work, as well as contributing to your peers' process by giving active feedback, and your course grade will be earned through this process.

### **points distribution:**

- 30pts: weekly meetings & responses
  - 13 weekly class meetings w/ response question afterward, 1pt/each
  - 13 individual research progress meetings, 1pt/each
  - 4 points for leading a group discussion during your assigned week
- 25pts: individual visual narrative project
  - evaluation rubric developed and applied collaboratively
- 20pts: 4 responsive visual mini-narratives, 5pts/each
- 15pts: documentation
  - process log, 5pts
  - final report, 10pts

### **grading scale:** consistent with [UF's university policies](#)

A | 4.00 | 100-95% : A- | 3.67 | 94.9-90.0%  
 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

### **attendance:**

Each week (excepting holidays) you'll attend 2 Zoom conferences: one with our whole class, and one with me to keep me updated on your research and project work. If you're unable to attend a meeting for reasons listed in the UF attendance policy, be in touch ahead of time (excepting emergencies) to make mutually acceptable alternate plans, or you'll forfeit the points associated with the missed meeting. Requirements for class attendance, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with UF's [university attendance policies](#)

### **covid-19 note:**

Global pandemics are difficult and complicated. I'm immune-compromised, so I understand how important it is to be in control of your own risk level. Thus, our required meetings will be 100% virtual. You should turn your video on whenever possible and make sure (absent safety concerns) that your Zoom profile image is either a recognizable icon or a photo of yourself; see the Zoom guidelines below. The FAC310 studio is open for scheduled access. In addition

to keeping a social distance of 6+ feet, masks are always required in all campus buildings and you should disinfect surfaces before and after use. I've designed our policies and project work for this course to minimize stress and maximize flexibility as much as possible. There may be things I need to know (eg: internet access challenges, changes in health or living situation—no specifics, obviously). If so, please tell me clearly, as soon as possible, and in a professional way (eg: not "hey, I forgot to come to class last week"). We'll figure out a plan.

**zoom guidelines / from me:**

- Upload a profile image of yourself to Zoom, preferably a photo, because it helps me to know who's speaking. Use an icon, pet photo, or emoji/cartoon if you have safety/privacy concerns.
- Turn on your video camera when you can during small group and individual meetings; this includes being dressed appropriately and having a neutral background.
- Keep your microphone on mute unless you're speaking or in a 1-on-1 meeting; audio feedback isn't fun.
- Turn your camera off when you need to step away, or eat a power bar, or interact with other people in your physical space.
- Use audio-only and/or chat when you need to. If you need to participate 100% through chat for safety or access reasons, please let me know you'll be chat-only so we can strategize to make sure you get what you need out of course interactions.

**zoom guidelines / from UF:**

- Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded [if the blinking red record light is on]. If you're unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and don't use a profile image [of yourself].
- Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you aren't willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you'll need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature [during recordings], which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat won't be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

**additional UF policies:**

- Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the [DRC](#). It's important to share your accommodation letter with me and discuss your access needs as early as possible in the semester.
- Academic integrity means that if you use words, images, or ideas that are not your own, you must 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 are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.

- 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. 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 [UFbluera](#). Finally, [summaries](#) of course evaluation results are available to students.

**emergencies:**

UF Police: Emergency 911, non-emergency 352-392-1111

or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

UF Counseling and Wellness Center: 352-392-1575

or <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>

UF 24/7 Crisis Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Emergency-Services>

**contacts for student healthcare center:**

Dial 911 for medical emergencies

Dial 352-392-1161 for urgent after-hours medical questions

Dial 352-392-1171 for after-hours mental health assistance, <http://shcc.ufl.edu>

**general university policies and services:**

Most policies, procedures, and resources important to students are here:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/>

## course summary:

<b>date</b>	<b>details</b>	
Mon Aug 31, 2020	Calendar GRA6930	12pm to 3pm
Wed Sep 2, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Week 1</a>	due by 11:30am
Mon Sep 7, 2020	Calendar GRA6930	12pm to 3pm
Wed Sep 9, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Week 2</a>	due by 11:30am
Mon Sep 14, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Reflective narrative 1</a>	due by 11:30am
	Calendar GRA6930	12pm to 3pm
Wed Sep 16, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Week 3</a>	due by 11:30am
Sun Sep 20, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Process 1 / proposal</a>	due by 11:30pm
Mon Sep 21, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Lead discussion</a>	due by 11:30am
	Calendar GRA6930	12pm to 3pm
Wed Sep 23, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Week 4</a>	due by 11:30am
Mon Sep 28, 2020	Calendar GRA6930	12pm to 3pm
Wed Sep 30, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Week 5</a>	due by 11:30am
Mon Oct 5, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Reflective narrative 2</a>	due by 11:30am
	Calendar GRA6930	12pm to 3pm
Wed Oct 7, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Week 6</a>	due by 11:30am
	Assignment <a href="#">Week 7</a>	due by 11:30am
Mon Oct 12, 2020	Calendar GRA6930	12pm to 3pm
Wed Oct 14, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Week 8</a>	due by 11:30am
Mon Oct 19, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Process 2 / progress report</a>	due by 11:30am
	Calendar GRA6930	12pm to 3pm
Mon Oct 26, 2020	Calendar GRA6930	12pm to 3pm
Wed Oct 28, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Week 9</a>	due by 11:30am
Mon Nov 2, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Reflective narrative 3</a>	due by 11:30am
	Calendar GRA6930	12pm to 3pm
Wed Nov 4, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Week 10</a>	due by 11:30am
Mon Nov 9, 2020	Calendar GRA6930	12pm to 3pm
	Assignment <a href="#">Evaluative rubric development</a>	due by 3pm
Wed Nov 11, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Week 11</a>	due by 11:30am
Mon Nov 16, 2020	Calendar GRA6930	12pm to 3pm
Wed Nov 18, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Week 12</a>	due by 11:30am
Mon Nov 23, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Reflective narrative 4</a>	due by 11:30am
	Calendar GRA6930	12pm to 3pm
Wed Nov 25, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Week 13</a>	due by 11:30am
Mon Nov 30, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Process 3 / peer feedback</a>	due by 11:30am
	Assignment <a href="#">Visual Narrative Project</a>	due by 11:30am
	Calendar GRA6930	12pm to 3pm
Wed Dec 2, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Week 14</a>	due by 11:30am
Mon Dec 7, 2020	Calendar GRA6930	12pm to 3pm
	Assignment <a href="#">Process log</a>	due by 11:59pm
Wed Dec 9, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Week 15</a>	due by 11:30am
Fri Dec 11, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Final report</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Dec 14, 2020	Calendar GRA6930	