GRA6931C Research and Practice
Fall 2025
University of Florida

Thursdays, 3:00–6:00pm
IFH 110, Infinity Hall

Office Hours
Tuesdays 10am–12pm or by appointment
FAC313 (or ufl.zoom.us/my/sjhan1)

Instructor: Seojoo Han
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office 352-273-3064

UF COURSE 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. Prereq: Design and Visual Communication major graduate student or permission of instructor. Coreq: GRA 6930.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

This seminar–design studio hybrid introduces students to design research as well as adjacent humanities and social science approaches. It showcases various research types and their relationship to design practice. The course explores how to craft research questions, build frameworks, and gather and analyze data. In addition, students will engage in a collaborative design project and an action research project conducted through a badminton match. By the end of the course, students are expected to be informed and articulate in responding to some of the following questions:

What is research? What is practice? What kinds of design research have been conducted in the past, and what directions are being pursued today? What makes design distinct as an academic discipline and epistemology? How should we understand design research as a relatively new and developing field compared to established disciplines? What are the defining characteristics of an MFA degree as outlined by NASAD, the accrediting body that governs our program? Within this framework, what is currently being taught and discussed? Why does our graduate program include the terms "design", "visual", and "communication"? What does it mean to engage with the regional and local environment through research? How can collaborative learning and knowledge generation be both experienced and designed?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• Develop self-direction and autonomy in one's work.
• Gain and apply skills in design research for the development of degree projects.
• Collaborate effectively in multidisciplinary settings.

IMPORTANT DATES AND CLASS SCHEDULE

• August: Introduction
• September 1st: Labor Day
• September to Mid-October: Project 1
• October 17th and 18th: Homecoming
• October 22nd to 24th: SECAC conference
• November 11th: Veterans Day
• November 24nd to 28th: Thanksgiving
• Late March to Mid-April: Project 2
• November 20th: Final Presentation Week
• December 4thth: Final Project Due

Note: <u>Assignments, projects, reading materials and discussion sessions will be announced in separate sheets.</u> This schedule is subject to change.

GRADING & EVALUATION

You must earn points through various components, including but not limited to in-class exercises and activities, writing assignments, presentations, group projects, reading responses, and written peer reviews. Additionally, you will be asked to report your mid-term point status based on the course's point calculation method. No make-up projects will be offered, and project due dates will be strictly enforced. Additionally, students may be evaluated on strength of work and positive learning attitude (ability/willingness to accept critical feedback and improve work accordingly, timely submission, degree of visual and conceptual literacy, quality and depth of ideas/critical thought, and the appropriate, experimental application of your thinking/ criticality in completed work) and contributions to the studio culture (participation in discussions and critiques).

Point System:
A 1000-950pt, A- 940-900pt, B+ 890-870pt, B 860-830pt, B- 820-800pt, C+ 790-770pt, C 760-730pt, C- 720-700pt, D+ 690-670pt, D 660-630pt, D- 620-600pt, E 590pt and lower

Grade Scale:
A 100-95, A- 94-90, B+ 89-87, B 86-83, B- 82-80, C+ 79-77, C 76-73, C- 72-70, D+ 69-67, D 66-63, D- 62-60, E 59 and lower

MEETINGS
This is a face to face in person class, unless otherwise stated by the instructor.

ATTENDANCE POLICY
In-class time is critical, and attendance is required. You are allowed two (2) unexcused absences. On your third (3rd) unexcused absence, your final letter grade for the class will be lowered by one full letter grade (10% of the total points for the semester). For each additional unexcused absence after the fourth, your grade will be lowered by half a letter grade (5%). Accumulating more than six (6) absences of any kind will result in automatic course failure unless documented accommodations are arranged in advance.

To receive an "excused" absence, you must do this:
Notify the instructor before class begins that you will not be able to attend class and provide official documentation of a university-sanctioned reason to receive an excused absence. Military service, varsity sports travel, and illnesses are common excused absences when documented by a written note from a

commanding officer, coach, or doctor. The instructor will not accept any documentation (e.g., doctor's note) submitted more than fourteen (14) days after the date of absence. Regardless of the type of absence, it is the student's responsibility to catch up on missed class content, announcements, and assignments. Requirements for class attendance, 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/

TECHNOLOGY, FEES, AND EQUIPMENT USE
With questions related to your computer system and technology in the Graphic Design area, you can contact our Lab Technician, Michael Christopher (mchristo@ufl.edu). He can help diagnose problems and provide solutions.

HEALTH AND SAFETY
The goal of the SA+AH Health and Safety Program is to protect the health and welfare of all faculty, staff, and students and to cooperate with the University of Florida's Department of Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S). Michael Christopher is the Health and Safety administrator for the Graphic Design program. While there are very limited health and safety risks with the materials we typically use for graphic design, be aware that materials used in other areas often carry risks. It is your responsibility to store everything you bring in the studio safely. Do not bring in any materials that are hazardous or combustible as the graphic design studios are not equipped for this type of storage. Knowingly or repeatedly storing such items in the studio may result in disciplinary action and loss of access to studio space outside of class time as well as loss of storage space.

Also,
- Batteries, some monitors, and lamps from digital projectors, if broken, may release mercury.
There are no known health hazards from intact materials.
- Do not use spray adhesives or do hazardous work in the studios. - Do not block aisles, halls or doors with stored items or when working. - Take items which do not fit into the trash to the dumpster, follow dumpster guidelines. - All users must follow the S+AH Container Policy
- The GD Area policies prohibit use of hazardous materials, this applies to materials used in other areas. They may not be stored, ever, in the GD studios. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may affect your ability to use the studio unsupervised outside of regular class times.

Accommodations
I will make every effort to accommodate students who request and require assistance, in accordance with the American Disabilities Act. If you have accommodations through the university, please let me know.

Mental Health + Wellness
If you need/want to talk about your mental health, please reach out. If you would like to speak with a mental health professional, which I highly recommend for every student, the school information is as follows:

Campus Resources
U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress. Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services. Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website. University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department

website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

Academic Resources
E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu. Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services. Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information. On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.

Changes to Syllabus
This syllabus serves as a guiding document for the course and is subject to change. The instructor(s) may need to make any changes in the syllabus throughout the course, as necessary. All changes to the syllabus will be provided to students.

Use of Student Work
Unless otherwise requested, your work may be used as educational examples in academic conferences or journals. We will make every attempt to credit your work to you where appropriate. You retain the copyright of your work.

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Research
Your instructor might be conducting a study of teaching and learning this semester. The purpose of this study is to determine the factors that influence teaching and learning effectiveness. Your participation in this study is voluntary. If you choose to participate, it will last for the duration of the semester and will entail activities no different from the regular activities you would otherwise engage in as part of the course. If you choose not to participate in the study, it will not impact your grade or your relationship with the instructor.

UF POLICIES:
(Copied and pasted in full without alteration from
https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/
as of August 18, 2025)

Academic Policies:

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. See UF Academic Regulations and Policies for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies. Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect

with the Disability Resource Center. See the "Get Started With the DRC" webpage on the Disability Resource Center site. 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.

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points. This may be achieved by including a link to the University grades and grading policies.

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:

The email they receive from GatorEvals
Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals
The central portal at https://my-ufl.bluera.com

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

The University's Honesty Policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc.:

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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. See the UF Conduct Code website for more information. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

In-Class Recording:

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 education 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 deliver by an instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course.

A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentation such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless, of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Academic Resources:

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call 866-281-6309 or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.

Academic Resources: 1317 Turlington Hall, Call 352-392-2010, or to make a private appointment: 352- 392-6420. Email contact: teaching-center@ufl.edu. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information.

Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.

UF Student Success Initiative: Visit https://studentsuccess.ufl.edu/ for resources that support your success as a UF student.

Campus Health and Wellness Resources:

UF Whole Gator Resources: Visit https://one.uf.edu/whole-gator/discover for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

[END GRA6931C Syllabus Fall 2025]