

SYLLABUS

Course: Thesis Research

COURSE & SECTION: FES6971

INSTRUCTOR: *Jeffrey Lindsey, PhD, PM, CFO, EFO*

*Office Rinker School of Construction
Management*

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OFFICE HOURS: *Monday-Friday 8am – 2 pm*

Prerequisites: Permission from Advisor and Director of Masters Programs

Material and Supply Fee: \$0

Textbook: Independently determined as per student's research topic and approved by the designated Thesis committee.

Software: N/A

Readings: N/A

Attendance:

As arranged with Advisor. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Course objective:

- Requires demonstration of mastery of all aspects of previous emergency services disaster management education.
- Requires individual student to articulate and engage a project entirely of their own definition.
- Requires individual student to convincingly define significant aspects of emergency services disaster management, and employ these aspects in design or research.
- Provides opportunity for individual student to make contribution to the exploration and development of the discipline of disaster management.

Note: It is strongly advised that the student have the following before registering for this course. 1) Advisor; 2) Full Advisory Committee; 3) Data Analysis complete; 4) Thesis half written

All MSFES students are required to complete a thesis. The thesis demonstrates the ability to:

- identify and construct a problem/thesis statement
- identify and utilize source materials and precedents
- carry out research
- analyze data
- develop defensible conclusions
- make a persuasive argument

The thesis should make an original contribution to knowledge in the field of Emergency Disaster Management. There is no predetermined length, but most theses range between 75 and 150 pages (typed, double-spaced).

CHOOSING A TOPIC

Students should begin thinking of possible thesis topics, or at least specific areas of interest, early in their MSFES program, preferably in the first semester. Ideally, the topic should be

related to the student's area of specialization (guided electives in addition to the core required coursework) and should also fit with the student's intellectual interests and career aspirations.

THESIS CHAIR AND COMMITTEE

Students should consult with appropriate professor or professors whose expertise relates most closely to the proposed topic concerning the feasibility of the topic and the willingness of the professor or professors to direct the thesis. The Coordinator of FES Programs can assist in identifying potential thesis advisors. The thesis chair (Advisor) should be appointed by the middle of the student's second semester. The thesis chair should be a member of the College of Design, Construction and Planning faculty.

In addition to the thesis chair, the thesis committee will include one additional faculty member from the graduate school. Special appointments are encouraged for qualified individuals. Special appointments must be approved by the graduate coordinator.

THESIS PROPOSAL

Students submit a formal thesis proposal no later than the beginning of their third semester (not including summers). The proposal should explain the problem/issue to be addressed in the thesis, identify preliminary research materials, specify the contribution the thesis is intended to make, and provide a preliminary plan for research, writing, and other activities. The committee members should approve the proposal and make suggestions for further research and writing as well as plans for the summer. A copy of the proposal will be maintained in the student's file.

CONDUCTING RESEARCH

Students should begin reading about their thesis area(s) and exploring potential resources early in the MSFES program. Taking courses related to and writing course papers on the

thesis topic will facilitate completion of the project. Thesis research may involve field-based study, library-based study, or most likely, some combination. The kind of research most appropriate to the thesis will vary by topic and discipline. Students should consult closely with their thesis advisors throughout the process.

COMPLETION AND DEFENSE OF THE THESIS

Students should consult with the thesis advisors about their research and writing schedule. Normally students will submit drafts of individual chapters to the thesis advisor as they are completed.

The thesis chair will advise whether and when drafts of the individual chapters or a draft of the entire thesis should be distributed to the other members of the committee for comments or suggestions. Students should submit a revised draft of the entire thesis to the Coordinator of FES Programs, and with the permission of the Coordinator of FES Programs, to the full committee prior to setting a defense date. Adequate time should be allotted for revisions after the defense. The oral defense should take place at least two weeks prior to the graduate school deadline for first submission. Students should follow the format or style guidelines appropriate to the thesis discipline (i.e. APA). For specific requirements of the UF Graduate School see the following:

<http://gradschool.rgp.ufl.edu/editorial/introduction>.

Grading

The final grade will be an S/U

Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory: Grades of S and U are the only grades awarded in courses numbered 6910 (Supervised Research), 6940 (Supervised Teaching), 6971 (Research for Master's Thesis), 6972 (Engineer's Research), 7979 (Advanced

Research), and 7980 (Research for Doctoral Dissertation). Additional courses for which S and U grades apply are noted in the academic unit offerings in [the Programs Section of this catalog](#).

A grade of S is equal to a C (2.0) or better. Grades earned under the S-U option do not carry grade point values and are not computed in the University of Florida grade point average. Courses with a grade of S will count as credits earned in a degree program. Such grades are included in your permanent academic record and are reflected on the transcript.

Accommodations:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

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 two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given

specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.”