Course Overview

This course assists DCP doctoral students with preparing their dissertations and scholarly publications. Topics include writing habits and techniques, components of a dissertation and dissertation proposal, components of journal articles, identifying a contribution to knowledge, working with the doctoral committee, presenting at academic conferences, selecting journals, and giving and responding to peer review. Students will hone their skills by analyzing examples, writing, presenting, and assisting their classmates.

Course Objectives

At course conclusion, students will ready to
- Give a paper presentation at an academic conference
- Submit a journal article manuscript
- Finish their dissertation proposal and implement it

Prerequisites

DCP 7911 (Advanced Design, Construction and Planning Research 1)

Course Format

The course is a blend of seminars, guest speakers, and student presentations and exercises, including writing prompts. Graded assignments are hands-on, analyzing real-world examples and applying lessons to create academic deliverables related to the student’s research, such as the dissertation. The course has a Canvas site containing assignments, online readings, and grades. Office hours are by appointment. Email is the best initial contact: kifrank@ufl.edu.

This syllabus is subject to minor change with advance notice to students.

Readings

Required book

Selected chapters of the following required will be provided in course reserves via Canvas
• Olson, R. (2010). *Don't be such a scientist: talking substance in an age of style*. Island Press.

Additional articles will be directly available online through Canvas.

**Assignments and Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analyze examples</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research article</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Sep 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference abstract</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Sep 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class conference session</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write conference abstract</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation and script</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Oct 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing deliverable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and journal</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Sep 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full draft</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Nov 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review classmate’s draft</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Nov 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respond to classmate’s review</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Nov 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final draft</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Dec 11</td>
</tr>
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Grading rubrics are provided for each assignment.

*Attendance policy*. Attendance is required. Readings listed for each week below should be completed prior to class that week. Attendance will be taken randomly throughout the semester. If you miss a class, check Canvas and inquire with classmates. Absence can be waived for UF-excused reasons with prompt documentation.

*Late assignments* will be marked down 10% of the total grade if they are not turned in by the deadline, and then an additional 10% for each week they are late (including weekends). *Missed class* and *makeup work* are allowed with acceptable, documented, and prompt reasons for absence, with communication to the instructor as early as possible: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx). The terms of making up missed work will be determined by the instructor in discussion with the student.

The relationship between letter grades and numeric grades is: (≥ 94.0), A- (≥ 90.0), B+ (≥ 87.0), B (≥ 83.0), B- (≥ 80.0), C+ (≥ 77.0), C (≥ 73.0), C- (≥ 70.0), D+ (≥ 67.0), D (≥ 63.0), D- (≥ 60.0), and E (<60.0). Where A=4.0, A-=3.67, B+=3.33, B=3.0, B-=2.67, C+=2.33, C=2.0, C-=1.67, D+=1.33, D=1.0, D-=0.67, E=0.0.
Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation and assistance with providing reasonable accommodation.

Student Honor Code and Academic Honesty

Students MUST follow the University’s Honor Code, which includes issues of cheating, plagiarism, and honesty. Please see http://www.correspondencestudy.ufl.edu/students/handbook/Plagiarism/PlagiarismAlert.html for guidance to avoid plagiarism and other Honor Code violations. *I will screen all assignments for plagiarism using the text-matching tool Turnitin (http://turnitin.com/static/index.html).* Students must submit work that is original to this course, i.e., not the student’s work from another course, unless it is used as a reference and properly cited.

Course/Instructor Evaluations

Students in this class are participating in the pilot evaluation of the new course evaluation system called GatorEvals. The new evaluation system is designed to be more informative to instructors so that teaching effectiveness is enhanced and to be more seamlessly linked to UF’s CANVAS learning management system. Students can complete their evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Please note your other classes this semester may be evaluated in the current GatorRater online evaluation system at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Thank you for serving as a partner in this important effort.

About Professor Frank

Kathryn Frank received a doctorate in City and Regional Planning from Georgia Tech, and a master’s degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Oregon. Her undergraduate majors were chemical engineering and mathematics.

She specializes in environmental, coastal, rural, and participatory planning for sustainability and resilience. Her doctoral dissertation examined the impacts of collaborative planning processes for the Everglades ecosystem. At the University of Florida, she has led $1 million in funded research projects. Recent publications have appeared in the *Journal of Planning Education and Research* and *International Planning Studies*. She previously worked as a planning consultant and environmental engineer.
Doc Core 3 – Schedule

Aug 21  Introduction
Topics Syllabus and class introductions
Purpose of dissertation, publishing, other writing
Discipline and home country specifics

Aug 28  Research and writing aims and process
Topics Research, reading, and writing habits
Making a contribution to knowledge
Drafts and revisions
Publishing in journals
Readings Bolker Ch 3
Becker Preface, Ch. 1-3

Sep 4  Research and writing quality
Topics How to approach social science
Non-fiction writing styles
Effective writing: audience and message
Effective visuals: tables and figures
Editing techniques
Readings Flyvbjerg Ch 1-2
Becker Ch. 4-6
Assignment Scope of deliverable and target journal

Sep 11  Research and writing ethics and laws
Topics Your voice and social-psychological factors
How to complete the job
Attribution: Quotes, citations, and references
Ethics and laws of social science and publishing
Readings Becker Ch 7-10
Online style manual for your discipline (APA, MLA, Chicago)
Assignment Analyze a research article

Sep 18  Collaboration
Topics Working with your advisor and committee
Research collaborators and co-authors
Reviewers, responding, and rejection

| Readings          | Bolker Ch 2
|                  | Adams “Collaborations: The rise of research networks”
|                  | Shaikh “A brief guide to research collaboration for the young scholar”

**Assignment**
Analyze a conference abstract

**Sep 25  Conferences**

| Topics                                | Community of scholars
|                                      | Scope of a conference presentation
|                                      | Presentation, paper, and poster

| Readings                              | Olson Introduction and Ch 1

**Oct 2  Dissertation proposals**

| Topics                                | Dissertation designs and proposals
|                                      | Three paper option
|                                      | Qualifying exams
|                                      | Funding and grant proposals

| Readings                              | Krathwohl and Smith Ch 1-2, 14

| Assignment                            | Write a conference abstract

**Oct 9  Dissertation and article writing: part 1**

| Topics                                | Introduction
|                                      | Literature review
|                                      | Methodology

| Readings                              | Krathwohl and Smith Ch 3

**Oct 16  Class presentations (Week before ACSP conference)**

| Assignment                            | In-class conference presentation

**Oct 23  No class – Travel to ACSP or attend approved research presentation**

**Oct 30  Dissertation and article writing: part 2**

| Topics                                | Results
|                                      | Discussion
|                                      | Conclusion
|                                      | Abstract
And debrief ACSP and research presentations

Readings          Bolker Ch 5

Nov 6          *Completing the article or dissertation*

Topics          Whole document revisions
                Editorial assistance
                Revising doctoral goals

Readings          Bolker Ch 8
Assignment          Full draft deliverable

Nov 13         *Dissertation proposal workshop*

Topics          Individualized assistance with the proposal

Assignment          Review classmate’s draft

Nov 20         *Deliverable workshop and open topics*

Topics          Individualized assistance with the deliverable
                Continue other course topics as needed

Assignment          Respond to classmate’s review

Nov 27         *No class – Thanksgiving break*

Dec 4          *Conclusion*

Topics          Results of peer reviews
                Course review

Assignment          Final draft of deliverable (due Dec 11)