

DCP 6230 | Class 20844 | Section MISD | 6 Credits
Master's Research Project, Integrated Sustainable Development
| Summer 2024 |

Instructor:	Bahar Armaghani LEED Fellow WELL Faculty Director & Instructional Associate Professor Program in Sustainability and the Built Environment (SBE) College of Design, Construction, and Planning (DCP) University of Florida
Office Correspondence:	352.294.1428 Canvas email (preferred) barmagh@ufl.edu (alternative)
Course Website:	https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/507399 for announcements, deliverables, and grades
Course credit:	This is a full-semester (summer C) course, Master's Research Project (MRP), which will be taken for 6 credits. Because of the workload intensity, the MRP course is intended to be taken as a standalone course in the student's final semester.

Course Description

Integrated sustainable development is in fact, about integrating everything – connecting people, processes, data and the built environment. The Master's Research Project (MRP) is intended to serve as a final deliverable for the MISD degree program that demonstrates a broad and deep understanding of a chosen sustainability topic by the student with its process, impacts and interventions.

This course requires students to establish a line of research into topics that support their interests in sustainability that can be successfully completed in allotted time. It emphasizes the conceptualization of a research topic, the selection of a study topic and information-gathering strategies typically used in practice, including case studies, experimental and quasi-experimental, survey methods, and open-ended interviewing, and observation. Thus, the course focuses on defining sustainability problems and suitable research question, the development of simple conceptual models, understanding the types of study and data collection methodologies available to understand problems, and the overall strategies for the research.

The MRP focuses on study design, interpreting findings, and disseminating findings in written and oral communications. The report format is developed in consultation with the course instructor and the student's research committee. ***Committees must be finalized prior to the start of MRP.***

The MRP will demonstrate the student's understanding of sustainability knowledge, professional skills, ethics, critical thinking skills, effective communication and professionalism, and research methods. An abstract and literature review, including application of relevant precedent and theory, is required and should inform the final product. The results of research, analysis, synthesis are defensible and logical, and significantly inform the final product. Professional skills are demonstrated in the areas of visual, oral and written communications. The methodologies, results of the research findings, and conclusions are appropriate to the research focus.

The student's supervisory committee should be appointed as soon as possible after the student is admitted to Graduate School, and no later than the end of first term of graduate study, preferably as this degree is one year. You are required to submit a one-page final project proposal outlining your topic at least one week prior to the beginning of your second semester in the program. On that proposal, **you will also need to indicate your top two choices for committee members, which members will serve as chair and co-chairs, and distribute your proposal to them.** The relevant faculty will review your document and respond to let you know whether they agree to participate on your committee so that you **can prepare the supervisory committee form and submit it to Pat Dejong to place it in your student record.**

Please note that many **professors are on a 9-month contract** with the university and conduct research full-time during the summer and are not available to work with students at that time. Therefore, you must identify a chair during the first semester.

The following is a breakdown of the instructor's and committee's role, their descriptions, and intended contributions:

- ***Instructor (NON-COMMITTEE)***
 - Guides students through course modules
 - Ensures students are meeting deadlines and providing deliverables
 - Facilitates dialogue and meetings between the students and their respective committees
 - Possible to serve a Chair or co-chair if needed and requested
- ***Chair: must be DCP faculty***
 - Serves as main topical editor/point of contact for research project
 - Position typically involves 3-4 meetings, review and editing of drafts, final presentation participation and feedback
 - Ultimately signs off on pass/fail for Final Exam/MRP
- ***Co-Chair: must be DCP faculty***
 - Serves as secondary editor/point of contact for research project
 - Position typically involves 1-2 meetings, review and light editing of drafts, final presentation participation and feedback
 - Ultimately signs off on pass/fail for Final Exam/MRP
- ***Special Member: anyone can serve; will need to get a UFID and Gatorlink***
 - Serves as point of contact for any questions or local insight needed
 - Position typically involves 0-1 meetings, review and editing of final draft, optional participation of presentation and feedback

Below is the graduate student handbook that you are required to review and get familiar with what the university offers to support you to succeed in your journey.

- Graduate Students Handbook: <https://grad.ufl.edu/media/gradufl.edu/pdf/handbook.pdf>

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Acquire the ability to identify, analyze and solve design and development problems facing the built and natural environments.
- Demonstrate the ability to identify, analyze and solve complex built environment problems.
- Show oral, written, and critical thinking skills required of master's students within their area of specialization.
- Exhibit proficiency in presenting their own work as well as discussing and constructively critiquing their own and the work of others.
- Develop the professional skills necessary for collaboration, time management, workload distribution, and decision-making under uncertainty within individual and team settings.

Expectations

Students are required to participate in live discussions via Zoom with the faculty and peers as scheduled below. It is encouraged for students to use a webcam for these virtual sessions to maximize your engagement. **Students are also required to engage with the Chair and Co-Chair faculty, for the benefit of the student research.** The instructor will be available to answer all forms of contact through Canvas or email.

Schedule of assignment delivery and grading

Module details, deliverables, due dates, and grades are published on Canvas and may be subject to change. These deliverables will be added to the Canvas for grading.

Category	Details	Due Date	Points
Module 1	Vision Setting, Research Proposal outline and Review MRPs	May 16 th	10
Module 2	Introduction + Literature Review	May 31 st	10
Module 3	Methodology	June 3rd	15
Module 4	Results, Findings, and Discussion	June 10 th	10
Module 5	Conclusion, Draft Submission	June 19 th	20
Module 6	Final Presentation/3MP	July 24 th	10
Module 7	Final MRP submission	July 29 th	10
Module 8	Revisions to the MRP and submission	August 1 st	5
Ongoing	Live Discussions and Participation	Ongoing	10
		Total	100

Live Discussion & Participation

Virtual module discussion and participation scheduled via Zoom on course Canvas page for every **Wednesday at 5:00 pm**. Join URL: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/98695932855>

	Agenda	Date
Session 1	Introductions, schedule and goals of the semester, taking your proposal to a draft, identifying next steps, data collection and knowing what your limitations are, and student questions.	May 15
Session 2	The “next steps” for students going to the draft step, including the grad school templates, examples (or the 3-minute presentation), student questions.	May 22
Session 3	Check in	May 29
Session 4	Draft finalization	June 12
Session 5	Students will present their elevator talks to the group, Instructor will review how to summarize and communicate presentation, “how comments can be integrated and how your revisions should be conducted”, reminder about the final submission and graduation deadlines.	June 19
Session 6	Final Presentation Prep	June 26
Session 7	Final 3MP, Poster Conference, and Reception for the graduates	July 3
Session 8	Revision to the submission	July 17

Deliverables		% Grade
Paper minimum 60 pages presentation	See samples on Canvas	40
3MP	See guidelines on Canvas	15
Module assignments		35

Grade and Grading Policy:

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Numeric Grade	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	0-59
Quality Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0

Final student grades will follow University of Florida grades and grading policies.

- Graduate Students Handbook: <https://grad.ufl.edu/media/gradufledu/pdf/handbook.pdf>

Follow UF Netiquette – Communication Courtesy:

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions, and chats. Please refer to:

<http://biostat.ufl.edu/resources/e-learning-resources/e-learning-basics/etiquette-online/> (Links to an external site.)

- **Plagiarism** and/or academic misconduct and consequences of committing such behavior.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzZsButRaHs>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GW3BzAG8aaY>

See Canvas for Additional Course Information

Additional information about the course is available on Canvas including announcements, deliverables, and grades.

Course Modules

This course is organized around a series of scheduled deliverables that bring student work from proposal stage to a final product. The student will be responsible for submitting all work into the Canvas by the set due dates listed.

Module 1: Vision Setting, Research Proposal and Review MRPs

Students begin by perusing research resources and previously submitted Master's Research Projects in order to influence their Research Proposal, which is due at the end of the Module. **The Research Proposal will be shared with committee members once completed.** Topical areas of research will be established and solidified. A synchronist Zoom session will be held to conduct introductions, go over semester progress timelines, discuss administrative items for graduation, and share research topics. **Interaction in this module includes discussions with Chair and Co-Chair.**

Module 2: Project Abstract + Literature Review

Students prepare an introduction and literature review which includes statements about their project, with an expanded bibliography. At this stage, students should fully hash out where they are gathering data, if they have not already. An "elevator pitch" is formulated, which helps to condense and distill the research project aims.

Module 3: Data Sources, Collection, and Methodology

Based upon the introduction and literature review, students will provide a summary of their selected data sources and research methods to be employed and write about their process of analysis. Students will provide this information in an appropriate format, either by a narrative discussion of data sources or an explanation of a distinct methodology that will enable them to complete the project. **Ongoing communication with Co-Chairs and Chairs at this point is strongly encouraged.**

Students will consult the Graduate School template to help prepare for development of the report draft. [See graduate student handbook.](#)

Module 4: Results, Findings, and Discussion

Students will work and finalize the Results, Findings, and Discussion sections of their research project. By this point, students should be working closely with **their committee**. Students should continue to refine previously completed sections of their research project. There will be a synchronist Zoom session to go over current progress, hurdles, and upcoming tasks; students will present their elevator pitch.

Module 5: Draft MRP, Draft Submission

Students will complete their paper by finalizing the Conclusion and Abstract sections of their research paper. Students will submit a completed draft, which will ultimately be sent **to committees for review prior to the final presentations**.

Module 6: Presentation Prep

Students will spend time creating and finalizing a final presentation and poster to go over their research project holistically. Students will watch 2 prior final papers (see course Canvas page) to gain insight into how the presentation is conducted. **Presentations should be no more than 20 minutes and will be recorded for submission.** Final Poster and 3MP presentations will be scheduled at the end of the semester. A final synchronist Zoom session will be held prior to the finals.

Module 7: Presentations

Students will deliver their final 3MP and Poster presentations to their committees, other students and faculty, and family and friends are welcomed. At the terminus of the presentation, the committee will determine if the student's work is satisfactory and provide feedback to incorporate into the final paper.

Module 8: Revisions to the MRP

Students will incorporate any edits or revisions their committee has submitted. There will be intense collaboration and back-and-forth between students and their committee during this Module.

Students will submit their final report, approved by their committee, with edits and changes finished. This final report date is not flexible and is an integral part of getting each student cleared for graduation at the University level administration. At the conclusion of your master's Research Project, students will be required to submit your final document to the University of Florida Library system for distribution, publishing, and archival.

Summer 2024 Commencement

College of Design, Construction and Planning (DCP)
Sustainability and the Built Environment

Friday, August 9, 2024
7pm - 9pm (processional at 6:30pm)

Stephen C. O'Connell Center (250 Gale Lemerand Dr, Gainesville, FL 32611)

Getting Help

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu / or **352 392-1575**, a team member will reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: 392-1575; and the

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <https://police.ufl.edu/>

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu, <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>

Other Campus Resources

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.
<http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask/>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
<http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
<http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

University Policies

Online course evaluation

Students expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. 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. 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 <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-resuL&Ts/>.

Students with Disabilities:

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services, and mediating faculty-student disability related issues.

Upon registering, the DRC will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Contact DRC at **352-392-8565**, or viewing, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/.

Student Honor Code and Academic Honesty

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 Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.

Software Use:

All faculty, staff and students at the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. As such, violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Religious Observances:

Please inform the instructor of any religious holidays or other days of special religious significance that may interfere with your participation in this class so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

Sexual Harassment:

Sexual harassment is reprehensible and will not be tolerated by the University. It subverts our academic mission and threatens the careers, educational experience, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff. The University will not tolerate behavior between, nor among, members of this community that creates an unacceptable working environment.