

# IND 5937: Inclusive Design in the Built Environment

Syllabus, Fall 2024

3 Credit Hours

---

**Class meeting Times:** Wednesday | Periods 7-9 (1:55 p.m. - 4:55 p.m.)

**Class meeting Location:** ARCH 439

**Instructor:** Shabboo Valipoor

Email: [sh.valipoor@ufl.edu](mailto:sh.valipoor@ufl.edu)

Office: ARCH 350 | Hours: Thursday (8:50 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.), or by appointment

Phone: 352-294-1451

## Course Description

### Statement:

This course focuses on the interaction between human abilities (and disabilities) and the design of the built environment, rooted in the values of equal opportunity and personal empowerment. You will learn about the lived experiences of people from various vulnerable groups with changing abilities and explore the principles of inclusive and human-centered design. We will review studies that employ innovative methods to evaluate and enhance accessibility, autonomy, and independence for everyone. The course emphasizes the acquisition of evidence-based methods to guide intervention development, tailored to each student's academic background and desired path.

### Objectives:

- Develop **sensitivity** to human variability in relation to the built environment.
- Identify and assess environmental **barriers** and **facilitators** that impact human functioning and quality of life.
- Understand a range of research **methods** used to study different aspects of inclusive design in the built environment and learn from the resulting findings.
- Develop and effectively communicate evidence-based design proposals that apply principles of inclusive design.

### Communications:

This course is taught mainly in a seminar format consisting of, but not limited to, lectures, presentations, assigned readings and video viewings, discussions, case studies, and writings.

### Reading Materials:

No textbook is required for this course. All readings and other course materials will be available through Canvas.

## Materials and Supplies Fees:

There are no materials and supplies fees required for this course during this semester.

## Instructional Methods:

The following modules are designed to support the course objectives:

### **Module 1: Vulnerable Populations & Environmental Needs**

This module provides students with a comprehensive understanding of inclusive design and its application in the built environment. Students will explore current knowledge about individuals with various vulnerabilities and their environmental needs. Guest lecturers will supplement course lectures and student exercises. Reading assignments will guide students in exploring the relationship between the built environment and different vulnerable groups, including the aging population, individuals with chronic health conditions, those who do not fit traditional average measures, and those whose disabilities are compounded by social disadvantages.

### **Module 2: Literature Analysis & Research Tools**

In this module, students will review the research methods and tools used to study vulnerable groups and how the physical environment may affect their health and quality of life. Students will read, evaluate, and present relevant research findings. Toward the end of this module, students will select their focus area and begin mapping the literature in that area.

### **Module 3: Evidence-Based Design**

This module focuses on evidence-based design. Students will propose design interventions aimed at retrofitting an existing building to make it more accessible to a selected group of occupants with special needs. Each student will choose a focus area, explore user needs, study research findings to inform their design, and propose evidence-based design solutions. The final product of this module will be a poster presentation showcasing the process and outcomes.

## Grading Policies

### Methods by which grades will be determined

The final grade will be based on your performance in the following activities:

Category	Percentage of total grade
Participation (on-time attendance, class engagement)	15%
Reflection / Deep Dive	15%
Presentations & Exercises	30%
Final project & progress reviews	40%

### Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points:

This course will follow the policies on the UF Undergraduate Catalog:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## Grading Scale:

For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see: <http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

Grade	%	Grade points	Grade	%	Grade points
A	93-100	4.0	C	73-76.9	2.0
A-	90-92.9	3.67	C-	70-72.9	1.67
B+	87-89.9	3.33	D+	67-69.9	1.33
B	83-86.9	3.0	D	63-66.9	1.0
B-	80-82.9	2.67	D-	60-62.9	.67
C+	77-79.9	2.33	E	0-59	0.0

## A Weekly Schedule of Topics and Assignments:

For a detailed schedule of assignments and class activities, see the course schedule on Canvas.

Disclaimer: This schedule represents the current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the learning experience in class.

## Course Policies

### Attendance & Participation:

Regular and punctual class attendance is essential, and no assigned work is excused because of absence. **One unexcused** absence from class is allowed. Each additional unexcused absence drops **one letter** from the final course grade. If you have to miss a class or activity due to illness or emergency, you should **contact the instructor** as early as possible prior to the missed class or activity and provide relevant documents by the next class. For **religious** holidays, there is no need for documentation, but the student should make their need for an absence known in advance of the scheduled activities. Requirements for class attendance and assignments are consistent with university policies:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

### Assignment Policy:

Assignments must be submitted to Canvas via the assignment page and any instructions detailed therein. Due dates are specified on the Canvas calendar. All assignments - completed or incomplete - must be turned in on the due date and will be graded as they stand. **Late assignments will be deducted one full letter grade per day (or partial day).**

### Make-up Policy:

In cases of emergency where documented proof is provided, late assignments will be accepted but, depending on the situation, there may be a grade reduction. Depending on the case, students who can provide appropriate documentation for the late submission may be given a reasonable period of time to make up for the late work.

### Course Technology:

For technology related issues, the UF computing help desk can be reached at:

- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>

- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2

## UF Policies

### University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Center. Click on the link below to start the process. Students should share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

<https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>

### University Policy on Academic Conduct:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge stating, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, 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 possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have questions or concerns, please consult the instructor.

## Getting Help

For issues with technical difficulties for Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>
- (352) 392-HELP (4357)
- Walk-in: HUB 132 (check website for open hours)

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.

## Online course evaluation

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

## Schedule, Fall 2024

WK	Date	Module	Lectures / Class Activities	Due
1	8/28	(1) Vulnerable Populations & Environmental Needs	- Introduction to course & semester plans - Inclusive Design: History, Principles, Challenges	
2	9/4		- Disability & the Built Environment - Observation presentations & discussions	Critical observation
3	9/11		- Aging & the Built Environment - Class presentations & discussions	Readings and assigned presentation
4	9/18		- Guest lecture - Class presentations & discussions	Readings and assigned presentation
5	9/25	(2) Literature Analysis & Research Tools	- Research Methods - Guest lecture	Reflection/Deep Dive
6	10/2		<b>Site visit - Jacksonville</b> Studies on Vulnerable populations 1 Assigned paper presentations & peer reviews	Assigned paper presentation
7	10/9		Studies on Vulnerable populations 2 Selected paper presentations & peer reviews	Selected paper presentation
8	10/16		Guest lecture Project Intro	Readings (guest's paper)
9	10/23	(3) Evidence-Based Design	Accessibility evaluations & interviews	Accessibility evaluation tools review
10	10/30		Literature mapping & evidence-based design Accessibility presentation	Topic selection Accessibility evaluation results
11	11/6		Progress review & discussion	Literature review
12	11/13		Progress review & discussion	Project desk review
13	11/20		Progress review & mock presentations	Project progress presentation
14	11/27		<b>HOLIDAY</b>	
15	12/4		Final Presentation	Final writing submission due Dec 1

\* This calendar is a general outline of the course. The instructor reserves the right to alter the course in response to academic conditions and opportunities.