

DCP 7794
DOCTORAL CORE 4:
RESEARCH ASSESSMENT AND PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION
SPRING SEMESTER, 2025

Instructor: Laura Rui Liu, Ph.D.

Hours: Mondays, Period 3 (9:35 AM - 10:25 AM)

Location: RNK 230

Office hours: Mondays 10:40-11:30 AM or by appointment

Office: RNK 321

Email: liurui@ufl.edu

Prerequisites: Enrollment is limited to DCP Doctoral students. Required Text: None

COURSE STATEMENT

This seminar is designed to support doctoral students in various aspects of their academic and professional development. It covers a range of topics, including identifying emerging research trends, formulating research questions, conceptualizing and writing dissertations, understanding the academic job market and its challenges, and preparing for conference presentations and job talks. Additionally, the course focuses on enhancing communication, presentation, and teamwork skills. Ultimately, this seminar equips students with the tools and strategies needed to successfully navigate the doctoral journey and excel in their academic careers. Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor(s). The instructor(s) is only responsible for these instructional materials.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is organized in a seminar format that will involve a variety of teaching styles that include lectures, facilitated discussions, in-class exercises, and student presentations. The course is intended to be a platform for discussion and shared learning. All students are expected to prepare for the learning activities and contribute to the class discussion. The course consists of four elements: reading assignments, in-class discussion, presentations, and writing assignments. Being able to effectively communicate your ideas verbally or in writing will form an important component of this course.

In conjunction with the University of Florida's emphasis on technology in teaching, E-learning Support Services will be utilized in this class. Students should already be familiar with word processing, Internetbrowsing software, and E-learning Support Services (<https://elearning.ufl.edu>). If you do not know how to use the E-learning Support Services, contact them directly (learning-support@ufl.edu) or (352) 392-4357.

GRADING POLICY

Students are responsible for the content of all reading materials, whether or not the material is covered in class. See the detailed course schedule for deliverable due dates. Students are responsible for addressing grades within one week of the grade being posted on the course's e-Learning website. After one week, the grade stands for the class regardless of cause or circumstance.

Assignments	30%
Final Presentation	15%
Final Report	25%
Peer Review of Presentation	10%
Participation in class discussion	20%
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 100%

Absence from classes and late assignments will be marked down, unless students have documentary evidence clearly demonstrating compassionate or compelling circumstances.

RECOMMENDED STYLE GUIDES

- A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations by Kate L. Turabian (9th edition or earlier editions).
- The Chicago Manual of Style (15th edition) [<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org>]
- Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th edition) [<http://www.apastyle.org>]
- The Elements of Style by William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White. [<http://www.bartleby.com/141/>]
- ASCE Style. [[ASCE Style Guide Citing Sources - Engineering Research Guide - Research Guides at Cal Poly Humboldt](#)]

Please check course program and reading lists for appropriate location of all materials and call numbers. Any difficulty accessing materials should be reported to instructor or UF Libraries staff. Inability to access course materials will not constitute a justification for not completing assignments. Here are just a few of the many links and web addresses to facilitate your access to UF Libraries:

Library Homepage	http://www.uflib.ufl.edu (for all library services and collections, including Course Reserves)
Ask-A-Librarian	http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ask (direct email or online chat for assistance)
IR@ UF	https://ufdc.ufl.edu/collections/ufir (to access the UF digital Institutional Repository)
Theses & Dissertations	https://etd.uflib.ufl.edu
Library Tools and Mobile Apps	http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/tools (smart phone apps, RSS feeds, etc.)

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

For any technical issues you encounter with your course please contact the UF computing Help Desk at 342-392-HELP (4357). For Help Desk hours visit: Information Technology–UF Computing Help Desk (<http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>).

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

University policies on such matters as add/drop, incomplete, academic probation, termination of enrollment, reinstatement, and other expectations or procedures can be found in the graduate student handbook (<http://www.graduateschool.ufl.edu/media/graduate-school/pdf-files/handbook.pdf>) and at the Dean of Students website (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/>).

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/studentconduct-honor-code/>).

NETIQUETTE: COMMUNICATION COURTESY

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Course communication should be civilized and respectful to everyone. The means of communication provided to you through e-Learning (email, discussion

posts, course questions, and chats) are at your full disposal to use in a respectful manner. Abuse of this system and its tools through disruptive conduct, harassment, or overall disruption of course activity will not be tolerated. Conduct that is deemed to be in violation with University rules and regulations or the Code of Student Conduct will result in a report to the Dean of Students. Refer to the [Netiquette Guide for Online Courses](#) for more information.

STUDENT HONOR CODE

In adopting this Honor Code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students who enroll at the University commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. Student and faculty support are crucial to the success of the Honor Code. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon the community acceptance and enforcement of the Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>).

The Honor Pledge: *We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty 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."*

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Students requesting disability-related academic accommodations must first register with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/>). The Disability Resource Center will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

COURSE EVALUATION

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. 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/publicresults/>.