

IND 6639

Methods of Research

Spring 2025

3 credits



Instructor: Lisa Sundahl Platt, Ph.D.  
Meeting Time: T | Period 8-10 (3:00 – 6:00 pm)  
Meeting Place: RINKER 225  
Instructor: Office: 334 Antevy Hall  
Telephone: Office- 352-294-1435  
Email: [lisaplatt@ufl.edu](mailto:lisaplatt@ufl.edu)  
Office Hours: M&W: 2:00 - 4:00 pm or by appointment

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on initiating the processes involved in planning a research project for your thesis or dissertation. It is a survey, critical analysis and synthesis of research strategies and methods in interior design or allied fields. Emphasis is placed on the identification and refinement of your topic of interest and the formulation of researchable questions with measurable constructs. In addition, you will design a study and specify the appropriate tools for discovery and complete a draft of the first 3 chapters of your thesis/dissertation. Ethical concerns are also addressed with respect to the researcher's role and the protection of human subjects, including information on the Institutional Review Board (IRB) protocol for research conducted at the University of Florida. Students will complete readings, give topical presentations and complete a series of exercises, as well as prepare a proposal that may serve as a foundation for a master's thesis or a doctoral dissertation.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is intended to help students:

- Communicate the ability to critically evaluate other's research.
- Demonstrate the ability to formulate researchable questions and transform those questions into a plan of research using appropriate research methods, considering ethical issues that may arise.
- Describe a variety of research strategies and tools for data collection and analysis.
- Choose appropriate methods for statistical analysis of datasets.
- Produce a coherent research proposal that may serve as a foundation for a thesis or dissertation.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

- Creswell, J. (2023). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches, 6th edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Yin, R. K. (2014). Case study research: Design and methods. Fifth Edition, SAGE.

## Recommended Texts:

- Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (2020). 7th Edition, Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Concise Rules of APA Style (2020). 7th Edition, Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Gifford, R. (2015). Research Methods for Environmental Psychology. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Zeisel, J. & Eberhard, J. P. (2006). Inquiry by Design: Environment/behavior/neuroscience in architecture, interiors, landscape and planning. (Rev. Ed.) New York: W.W.Norton

## COURSE FORMAT

Class format will combine lectures, assigned readings, discussions, presentations, peer assessments, proposal writing and poster development. The goal of this class is to create an environment for students to write, research and workshop their research topics and design exploration projects in class.

In addition, each student will be closely working with a faculty-mentor on their research proposal project as they have developed it from IND5633 *Readings in Design Studies*. All students during the development of their proposal are required to meet or collaborate (email correspondence is acceptable) with their faculty mentor at least twice during the semester.

## GRADES AND GRADING POLICIES

This course follows UF's policies for grading. Information regarding UF's grades and grading policy can be found at:

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

• Thesis/Dissertation Chapter Development	(40%)
• Methods/Approach Poster Presentation	(15%)
• Proposal Presentation	(15%)
• Research Strategies Presentation	(10%)
• <u>Exercises/Activities</u>	<u>(20%)</u>
TOTAL:	100%

*Grades will be assigned as follows:*

A=93-100	C+ = 77-79.9	D- =60-62.9
A- =90-92.9	C=73-76.9	E<60
B+ =87-89.9	C- =70- 72.9	
B=83-86.9	D+ =67-69.9	
B- =80-82.9	D=63-66.9	

## RECOMMENDED STYLE GUIDE

- American Psychological Association (2019). Concise rules of APA style (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- See also Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) as a quick reference guide.

## UF LIBRARY RESOURCES

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)
- UF Digital Collections <https://ufdc.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), select option 2. For Help Desk hours visit: Information Technology–UF Computing Help Desk (<http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>).

## COURSE POLICIES

### Canvas:

The syllabus, course assignments, due dates, additional reading material, grades and other course-related information will be available in Canvas. You are responsible for checking Canvas regularly to track assignments, due dates, etc. You must post your completed assignments to Canvas by the start of class on the due date unless otherwise instructed. Please email the assignments to the instructor, on time, if you experience technical difficulties with Canvas.

### Academic Integrity:

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 specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Honor Code.](#) Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### Attendance & Participation:

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. [Click here to read the university attendance policies.](#) Attendance is essential to the learning process. Students must be on time for each class session and present for the entire class to be marked present, and attendance is mandatory.

**Assignment Due Dates:**

*All assignments - completed or incomplete - must be turned in on the due date and will be graded as they stand.* The right to make an exception will be reserved only in extreme cases (due to emergencies). A student wishing to submit a late assignment must provide the instructor(s), in writing, with a statement of why the assignment is late and the instructor(s) will determine whether or not to accept the late assignment. If the instructor(s) decide to accept the late assignment for a reason other than a documented emergency, 10 points will be deducted for each day (or partial day) that the assignment is late.

**Classroom Climate:**

Equitable participation in this class requires the use of inclusive language, methods, and materials. Students are expected to use inclusive language in written and oral work, and to respect diversity in viewpoints expressed by others. Students are also encouraged to identify language, methods, and materials used in this course that do not contribute to an inclusive classroom climate.

**Disputed Grading:**

Any objection regarding grading of any project/paper/exam etc. must be submitted in writing within 2 weeks of receiving the grade. You must include an explanation of why you think your answer was correct or why you should have received a higher grade.

**Incompletes:**

For information about incomplete grades for this course, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#gradestext>

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES****Special Accommodations:**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

**Course evaluations:**

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/public-results/>.

**Student privacy:**

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see:

<http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>. Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a

profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

## **CAMPUS WRITING ASSISTANCE**

### **Writing Studio:**

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 302 Tigert Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

## **CAMPUS RESOURCES**

### **Health Resources**

*Counseling and Wellness Center:* [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

*Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

*University Police Department:* [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

*UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road,

Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#)

### **Academic Resources**

*E-learning technical support:* Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

*Career Connections Center:* Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

*Library Support:* Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

*Teaching Center:* Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

*Writing Studio:* 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

*Student Complaints On-Campus:* [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).

*On-Line Students Complaints:* [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS/ ASSIGNMENTS

### **Thesis/Dissertation Chapter Development (40%)**

You will further develop Chapters 1 and 2 of your thesis/dissertation and develop a detailed outline of Chapter 3.

COVER PAGE: Working title, Your Name, Table of Contents, Abstract

CHAPTER 1 - Introduction

CHAPTER 2 - Literature Review

CHAPTER 3 – Methods/Project Framing (detailed outline)

REFERENCE LIST

### **Methods/Approach Poster Presentation (15%)**

Each student will develop and present their proposed methods of research or project framing (if conducting a Design Exploration thesis). The presentation is scheduled for February 23, 2023.

### **Proposal Presentation (15%)**

Each student will make a final proposal presentation and invite their committee chair to provide feedback.

### **Research Methods/Strategies Presentation (10%)**

Each student is required to facilitate class discussion. This will involve each student taking “ownership” of preparing and delivering information regarding a specific research strategy (e.g., operationalizing constructs, survey design, interviews, focus groups, etc.) and developing an in-class activity for students to complete. The student will identify relevant readings if needed, prepare and deliver a PowerPoint presentation to the class, and lead the class through completion of the in-class activity.

### **Exercises/Activities (20%)**

You will be assigned exercises and activities throughout the semester to strengthen your understanding and application of course materials. To facilitate the development of your proposal for a master’s thesis or a doctoral dissertation, you will be required to submit multiple assignments, and will present the proposal idea(s) and draft to the class for direction and critique. Also, class participation by all students is expected. This means that students will read all assigned materials, participate in-class discussions, and complete all in-class activities.

Tentative Course Schedule (subject to change by the instructor, see Canvas for the most up-to-date info)

Week (Date)	Topics/Activities	Readings	Assignments/Due/Notes
Week 1 (1/14)	<p><b>Course Introduction</b> Syllabus &amp; Course Overview</p> <p><b>Research Ethics:</b> UF IRB – review online submission</p> <p><b>Developing a Proposal</b> Intro to Proposal Writing (ppt) Writing an introduction, Writing a purpose statement Formulating research questions</p> <p><i>In-class exercise</i></p> <p><i>Assign student research methods presentation topics</i></p>		<p>Dates &amp; Deadlines: <a href="https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/dates-deadlines/2022-2023/">https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/dates-deadlines/2022-2023/</a></p> <p>DCP Doctoral Handbook: <a href="https://dcp.ufl.edu/academics/phd8/">https://dcp.ufl.edu/academics/phd8/</a></p> <p>UF Grad Handbook/Guides: <a href="https://graduateschool.ufl.edu/work/handbook/">https://graduateschool.ufl.edu/work/handbook/</a></p>
Week 2 (1/21)	<p><b>Developing a Proposal</b></p> <p><i>Discuss student-identified theses/dissertations</i></p> <p><i>Discuss purpose, research/design questions</i></p>	Creswell Ch 5, 6, 7	<p><b>Due: Submit</b> revised in-class exercise</p> <p><b>Due: Submit</b> evidence of successful completion of IRB training</p> <p><b>Due: Submit</b> 2 examples of Thesis or Dissertation related your topic. <b>Be prepared to discuss</b> the purpose and research methods of each and how the thesis/dissertation relates to your topic.</p> <p>If off campus, you <b>MUST BE ON THE VPN</b> to access them.</p> <p><a href="http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/InteriorDesign">http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/InteriorDesign</a></p> <p>UF: (you may need to select "All Items" then choose Dissertations, which also includes theses)</p> <p><a href="https://ufl-flvc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?query=any,contains,%22interior%20design%22&amp;pfilter=rtype,exact,dissertations&amp;tab=Network_Catalog&amp;search_scope=New_Discovery_Network&amp;vid=01FALSC_UFL:UFL&amp;offset=0">https://ufl-flvc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?query=any,contains,%22interior%20design%22&amp;pfilter=rtype,exact,dissertations&amp;tab=Network_Catalog&amp;search_scope=New_Discovery_Network&amp;vid=01FALSC_UFL:UFL&amp;offset=0</a></p>

			(you may need to select "All Items" then choose Dissertations, which also includes theses)  Outside of UF: <a href="https://etd.uflib.ufl.edu/find-non-uf-theses-and-dissertations/">https://etd.uflib.ufl.edu/find-non-uf-theses-and-dissertations/</a>
Week 3 (1/28)	<b>Research Approach</b> Quantitative Qualitative Mixed-methods  <b>Mixed-methods Research Overview</b>  <i>In-class exercise:</i> Peer review of purpose statement, RQs and lit review outline	Creswell Ch 1 Yin Ch 1  Creswell Ch 10 Yin Ch 2	<b>Due: Submit</b> 3 examples of the purpose statement & research questions from 5 relevant research articles (may be from the reference list of your literature review)  <b>Due: Submit</b> a draft of your purpose statement & research/design question(s)
Week 4 (2/04)	<b>Qualitative Research Overview</b>	Yin Ch 3	<b>Due: Submit</b> revised purpose statement & research/design question(s) for your proposal and proposed methods
Week 5 (2/11)	<b>Quantitative Research Overview</b>  <i>Interpreting quantitative data in the literature</i>	Yin Ch 4	<b>Due: Submit</b> Draft Poster
Week 6 (2/18)	<b>Research &amp; Theory</b>  <i>Review Theory Assignment</i>  <i>In-class exercise:</i> Identify theories that may inform your research study/design exploration  <b>Observation</b> Structured observations; Observation, trace measures and behavior mapping  <i>Student Research Methods Presentations</i>	Creswell Ch3          Yin Ch 5 Gifford (2016) Research Methods for Environmental Psychology <i>Ch 2 and 3</i> (full text available online at UF	<b>Due: Submit</b> Research Methods Presentation  <i>Bring Gifford E&amp;B book to class</i>



		library (must be on VPN or proxy server)	
Week 7 (2/25)	<b>Existing Data/Documents</b> <i>In-class mock poster presentation</i>	Yin Ch. 6	<b>Due: Submit</b> Final poster
Week 7 (3/04)	<b>Poster Presentation and Attend Thesis Defense Required on 2/23 (9am - 12pm)</b>		
Week 8 (3/11)	<b>Questionnaires</b> <i>In-class exercise: Peer-review of Introduction</i>	Reading posted by instructor	<b>Due: Submit</b> Theory assignment (2+ paragraph description of at least one relevant theory and how it relates to your research topic).  <b>Due: Submit revised Chapter 1 –</b> Introduction (include theory discussion)
Week 9 (3/18)	<b>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES</b>		
Week 10 (3/25)	<b>Interviews Focus Groups</b>	Reading posted by instructor	<b>Due: Submit revised Ch 2 -</b> Literature Review to reflect any changes you have made to your purpose or research questions and to narrow, as necessary.
Week 11 (4/01)	<b>Writing Strategies Content Analysis</b> In-class exercise Peer review research problem, significance and research questions Avoiding plagiarism	Creswell Ch 4	<b>Due: Submit</b> detailed outline of Ch 3
Week 12 (4/08)	Individual meeting with the instructor to discuss your proposal presentation		<b>Due: Submit Draft Proposal Presentation</b>
Week 14 (4/15)	<b>Dry run</b> of proposal presentation		<b>Due: Submit</b> Peer-review comments for your classmate's proposal
Week 15 (4/22)	<b>Proposal Presentation</b> (invite your committee members)		<b>Due: Submit</b> FINAL proposal presentation <b>Final Chapters 1-3 Due on April 25 at 11:59 pm</b>