
IND5920: Graduate Colloquium

Fall 2025 (1 credit hour)

Department of Interior Design
College of Design, Construction and Planning
University of Florida

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Office Hours: T/R 10:30 - 11:30am or by appointment

Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/9876532945>, ID: 987 653 2945

Meeting Time: R | Period 5 (11:45AM - 12:35PM)

Meeting Place: AH 0213

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a required course of up to two credit hours in sequence for all IND graduate students. This course is offered each semester and provides an overview of our Master of Interior Design (MID) and PhD programs to both MID and PhD students for their effective graduate studies at UF. The primary goal of the course is to help students take responsibility for their successful graduate studies and to build a sense of community. This course is designed in a seminar/conference format.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is intended to help students:

- Be better equipped to make the most of their graduate study experience.
- Map out their goals for graduate study and contextualize their academic concentration.
- Initiate developing their research/design projects and seek out their faculty mentors.
- Understand the interior design profession while studying as a graduate student at UF.
- Create a positive community culture by working together toward a shared goal for their graduate studies and leveraging their peer network.

REQUIRED TEXTS

No textbook is required for this course.

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FEES

There is no material/supply fee required for this course.

COURSE FORMAT

The class format will combine lectures, assigned readings, discussions, presentations, peer critiques, web browsing/searching/reading, and writing. The goal of this class is to create an environment where students can share and discuss their opinions about their progress and experiences in the IND graduate program.

CANVAS SITE

All course-related information will be available on Canvas. It is your responsibility to check Canvas regularly to keep track of your course schedule, assignments, due dates, etc. In addition, you are expected to share any information relevant to the IND graduate program with your classmates by posting/uploading it to the “Communication” page on Canvas.

Laptops, cell phones, tablets: Please bring your mobile devices to class and use them only for course-related purposes during class time. Having access to relevant sources of information is important to creating an active learning environment. You may need these devices for in-class assignments.

PARTICIPATION

The seminar format requires your active participation in the class. Your active participation and presentation are critical to its effectiveness because the class is truly student-driven.

Student participation is a main component of this course. As such, class participation is an integral part of your learning experience. Participation in all discussions is required for successful completion of this course, and you are expected to stay for the entire class period.

Classroom Climate: Equitable participation in this course 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.

EVALUATION METHODS

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

Category	Percentage of total grade
Assignments	90%
Attendance/Participations/Information Sharing	10%
Total	100%

Assignments	Topics	Points
A1	Attending Research Activities	10
A2	Meeting with your potential advisor(s)+ Progress work	10
A3	UF/MID/PhD requirements Summary	10
A4	MID/PhD Curriculum	10
A5	MID/PhD Study Plan & Timeline	10
A6	3 samples of IND thesis/dissertation	10
A7	Thesis/Dissertation Formats	10
A8	Research Ethics (IRB training certificate)	10
A9	Interior Design Profession	20
Total		100

GRADING SCALE

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

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points. This may be achieved by including [a link to the University grades and grading policies.](#)

ATTENDANCE

*If you are sick or showing any symptoms of illness, you are expected to stay home. Any absence related to illness or other symptoms will be excused; however, email your instructor beforehand.

Three or more unexcused absences will result in a student's final course grade being lowered. Final course grades will be lowered by one letter grade starting from the fourth unexcused absence. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. [See UF Academic Regulations and Policies for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies.](#)

COURSE EVALUATIONS

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluation online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways: 1) The email they receive from GatorEvals; 2) Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals; 3) The central portal at <https://my-ufl.bluer.com>. Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

ACADEMIC POLICIES & RESOURCES: <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolices>

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. [See the "Get Started With the DRC" webpage on the Disability Resource Center site.](#) 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.

The University's Honesty Policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc.:

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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in

violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [See the UF Conduct Code website for more information.](#) If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at [352-392-4357](tel:352-392-4357) or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, [352-392-1601](tel:352-392-1601). Career assistance and counseling services.
- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call [866-281-6309](tel:866-281-6309) or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
- [Academic Resources](#): 1317 Turlington Hall, Call [352-392-2010](tel:352-392-2010), or to make a private appointment: [352-392-6420](tel:352-392-6420). Email contact: teaching-center@ufl.edu. General study skills and tutoring.
- [Writing Studio](#): Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, [352-846-1138](tel:352-846-1138) | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; [Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information.](#)
- Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): [View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.](#)
- UF Student Success Initiative: Visit <https://studentsuccess.ufl.edu/> for resources that support your success as a UF student.

Campus Health and Wellness Resources:

- UF Whole Gator Resources: Visit <https://one.uf.edu/whole-gator/discover> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

Fall 2025 COURSE SCHEDULE

Class Meeting Time: Thursdays

Period 5 (11:45AM - 12:35PM)

WK	Date	Topics/Reading	Assignments/Dues
1	8/21	Introduction & Course Overview	A1 (Research Activities) & A2 (potential advisor(s)+ Progress work) Due: Wednesday, Dec 3, 11:59pm
2	8/28	-UF Graduate School Requirements https://graduateschool.ufl.edu/ https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/ https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/calendar/	Prior to class, review UF graduate school requirements & bring at least 2 questions to discuss in class Due: A3 (UF Graduate School Requirements) by 11AM
3	9/04	MID/PhD Handbooks + IND website (ID Faculty Research Areas)	Prior to class, review MID/PhD Handbooks + IND website & bring at least 2 questions to discuss in class
4	9/11	Literature Search (Library Visit)	<i>The library visit is scheduled for Friday 12/9. It will be with the reading class.</i>
5	9/18	BD/MID/PhD Curriculum	Prior to class, review MID/PhD curriculum & bring at least 2 questions to discuss in class Due: A4 (MID/PhD Curriculum) by 11AM
6	9/25	MID/PhD Study Plan (Q+A) (Thesis/Dissertation defense)	Due: A5 (MID/PhD Study Plan) by 11:00AM (Be ready for a class discussion)
7	10/02	Thesis/Dissertation (topics)	Prior to class, review the topics in the IND Thesis/Dissertation & bring at least 2 questions to discuss in class Due: A6 (3 samples of IND thesis/dissertation) by 11AM
8	10/09	Thesis/Dissertation (formats) - Publishing & Dissemination	Prior to class, review the formats of the IND Thesis/Dissertation & bring at least 2 questions to discuss in class Due: A7 (Understanding format) by 11AM
9	10/16	Research Ethics (IRB). Visit here: https://irb.ufl.edu/index/requiredtraining.html	Due: A8 (IRB training certificate) by Dec 3, 11:59pm
10	10/23	Interior Design Profession	
11	10/30	Presentation	Due: A9 (Interior Design Profession) by 11AM (Be ready for a class presentation & discussion)
12	11/6	Graduate Student Invitation	
13	11/13	Faculty Invitation	
14	11/20	Team Building Exercise	
15	11/27	No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday	
16	12/3	Wednesday (Classes End)	Due: A1, A2, & A8 by Wednesday, Dec 3, 11:59pm

Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course schedule and syllabus as required to facilitate learning. Adjustments will be made when necessary and according to the professional judgment of the instructor. Be sure to check Canvas regularly for updates!