Spring 2026

BCN 6036 Research Methods in Construction

M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Construction Management
University of Florida

T Period 4 - 5 (10:40 AM - 12:35 PM)
R Period 4 (10:40 AM - 11:30 AM)

Instructor: Dr. Maria Watson
Office: 203 Rinker Hall
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Office hours will be Thursdays from 11:30am to 1:30pm or by appointment

Course description: The course focuses on design, execution, and reporting of research within the construction and built environment disciplines. Students will practice the research proposal development process, as well as the qualitative, statistical, and presentation tools available for research.

Objectives: The primary objective of the course is to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to develop and perform a successful research project. In particular, students will learn: (i) principles and foundations of the scholarly research process; (ii) how to develop an effective proposal for a research project; (iii) the methods and procedures of research, including performing effective literature reviews, designing experiments, collecting data, and analyzing data; and (iv) how to write and present research results. The course will include formal lectures, class discussions, case studies, guest speakers and laboratory sessions.

Course Materials and Supply Fees: You are not required to purchase a textbook for this course. Your learning resources will be a mixture of books, academic journal papers, media articles, videos and other sources. These will be available and updated on Canvas. There are no materials and supplies fees.

Weekly Schedule of Topics:

Week	Date (T)	Topic	Assignment
1	13-Jan	Introduction	
2	20-Jan	Developing a research question	Assignment 1
3	27-Jan	Literature review	Project deliverable 1
4	3-Feb	Sampling	Assignment 2
5	10-Feb	Designing experiments	Assignment 3
6	17-Feb	Measurement, error, and bias	Assignment 4
7	24-Feb	Conducting interviews and focus groups	Assignment 5
8	3-Mar	Conducting Surveys	Assignment 6
9	10-Mar	Collecting observational data	Project deliverable 2
10	17-Mar	Peer review and evaluation	Assignment 7
11	24-Mar	Spring break, no class	
12	31-Mar	Introduction to statistics	Assignment 8
13	7-Apr	Statistical analysis I	Assignment 9

14	14-Apr	Statistical analysis II	Project deliverable 3
15	21-Apr	Research communication	Assignment 10
16	28-Apr	Finals week, no class	Project deliverable 4

Evaluation and Scoring: Students will be assessed on their participation in discussion about course readings and materials, assignments on key concepts and methodologies, and a final research project with regular check-ins throughout the course.

Assessment	*Points*
Participation in class discussions and reflections	100
Assignments (20 points each)	200
Research project (split across four deliverables)	200
Total points available	**500**

Grading Policy: Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale. Divide the total points you earn by the total possible points to obtain your percent. Decimal points will not be rounded.

Assignments are due by the date and time specified on Canvas. Late submissions will be accepted but will receive a maximum possible grade of 50% (half credit)

Percent	**Letter Grade**
93.0 - 100	A
90.0 - 92.99	A-
87.0 - 89.99	B+
83.0 - 86.99	B
80.0 - 82.99	B-
77.0 - 79.99	C+
73.0 - 76.99	C
70.0 - 72.99	C-
67.0 - 69.99	D+
63.0 - 66.99	D
60.0 - 62.99	D-
0 - 59.99	E

More information on grades and grading policies at UF is available at:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Accessing University Academic Policies and Campus Resources
For all other university-wide academic policies and campus resources, please use the following link: https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies

Instructor note: This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.