

**MMC 6936: Mixed Methods, section 32E9**

**Course Syllabus: Spring 2020**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Jordan Alpert, Ph.D.  
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Office: Weimer 2093  
Office Hours: By appointment

**CLASSROOM:** Weimer 1090  
Thursday 9:35 a.m. – 12:35 p.m.

**WEBSITE:** e-Learning: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu/>  
Readings, grades and other various materials will all be posted here

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

This course is concerned with the process of integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches to reveal comprehensive and constructive insights from data. We will examine ways to establish qualitative and quantitative goals, develop research questions, analysis strategies, and presentation of results.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the difference between mixed methods research from single-method research
- Be aware of issues to address when combining approaches
- Recognize the strengths and limitations of both qualitative and quantitative research, and how to integrate these approaches in a mixed method study
- Evaluate and publish mixed methods research
- Plan and communicate the design and process of a mixed methods study

All graduate students interested in mixed-methods approaches are welcome. This course will not deal specifically with advanced statistical analysis methods, since these are not essential for much mixed methods research, but a solid grasp of basic concepts towards both qualitative and quantitative research is helpful.

**COURSE MATERIAL**

Designing and Conducting Mixed Methods Research, Creswell, JW & Plano Clark, VL, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Sage, 2018.

Additional readings will be provided and posted on the course website. The major journal for papers dealing with the methodology of mixed method research is the *Journal of Mixed Method Research*.

**COURSE POLICIES:**

**ATTENDANCE:** Regular attendance is required. The class format is focused primarily on student-led discussions, therefore, attendance and proper preparation is expected to successfully complete this course.

In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved.

Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Requirements for class attendance and make-up assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

**ASSIGNMENTS / GRADING:**

Descriptions of assignments and grading scale is below.

| <b>COURSE GRADES</b>                | <b>POINTS</b> | <b>% OF TOTAL</b> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Discussion Participation            | 10            | 10%               |
| Assignments (4x, 5 points each)     | 20            | 20%               |
| Discussion Leader (2x, 10 pts each) | 20            | 20%               |
| Lit Review and methods overview     | 10            | 10%               |
| Data Display                        | 10            | 10%               |
| Research Proposal                   | 30            | 30%               |
| <b>TOTAL POINTS</b>                 | <b>100</b>    | <b>100%</b>       |

- **Attendance / Participation / Discussion Forum:** Punctuality and attendance are expected. There will be minimal lecturing; rather, the class format is focused primarily on student-led discussions. It is essential that you prepare fully for these class discussions. To help prepare yourself as well as the week’s discussion leader, you will post a short response/reaction to the readings in the online discussion board. The posts are not graded, but will assist the week’s Discussion leader in organizing the conversation during the upcoming class. Discussion board posts should consist of what you found interesting, confusing, lacking, exciting, as well as any questions you encountered. You do not need to post when you are the Discussion Leader.
- **Assignments:** Numerous activities throughout the semester
  - Fill in the blank
  - Real world example
  - Peer review
  - Journal article presentation

- **Topic Discussion Leader:** You will sign up to lead two discussions throughout the semester. You will be responsible for the week’s readings, and using feedback from the Discussion Board, you will facilitate a discussion and steer the conversation during class. When it is your week to lead the class discussion, you do not have to post but you must read through the postings thoroughly and synthesize your colleagues’ responses. You will both lead the discussion and provide a brief one-page outline of the readings. It is recommended that you begin with a general synopsis, followed by key discussion points to examine/debate. Your introductory discussion should be about 10-20 minutes, broadly discussing all of the articles.
- **Journal Review:** Review an article and discuss how mixed methods should’ve been incorporated.
- **Literature Review & Research Questions:** An introduction, including a literature review, will be written, logically forming the need for the study, with research questions and/or hypothesis listed.
- **Methods Diagram/ Joint Display:** Write a summary or outline of the methods you plan to use in your study for a journal/grant based on a topic of interest. The methods should set up the research questions/hypotheses to explore.
- **Research Proposal:** A full proposal, including lit review, research questions/hypotheses and Methodology, will be written. The proposal should help to set up a paper that will potentially be submitted to a conference, journal, or grant.

**GRADING SCALE:**

| LETTER GRADE | PERCENTAGE | POINTS    |
|--------------|------------|-----------|
| A            | 93 – 100%  | 465 – 500 |
| A-           | 90 - 92%   | 450 – 464 |
| B+           | 87 – 89%   | 435 – 449 |
| B            | 83 – 86%   | 415 – 434 |
| B-           | 80 – 82%   | 400 – 414 |
| C+           | 77-79%     | 385 – 399 |
| C            | 73-76%     | 365 – 384 |
| C-           | 70-72%     | 350 – 364 |
| D+           | 67-69%     | 335 – 349 |
| D            | 63-66%     | 315 - 334 |
| D-           | 60-62%     | 300 - 314 |
| E            | Below 60%  | Below 299 |

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

- January 10: Last day to add/drop classes without penalty
- January 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- March 2-6: Spring Break
- April 16: Last day of class

**UF POLICIES:**

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

**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 at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

**HONOR CODE:** Academic dishonesty is an important issue of concern at the University of Florida. Students who violate University rules on scholastic integrity are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the University. All individual, or group, work submitted for academic credit should be the original work of the individual, or individuals, seeking credit. Materials used to support an individual's, or group's, efforts should be appropriately cited in a bibliography or footnotes section of the work. Plagiarized work includes: work that is "lifted" or not appropriately cited. Work submitted for individual credit that is not exclusively the individual's own, or that is shared between students without disclosure that the work represented is a collaboration output between authors, are a breach of the University's Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is implied:

*"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."*

You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. You can give help or receive help from other students. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all, or part, of work done by someone else, in the form of e-mail, an e-mail attachment file, USB drive, or hard copy. Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who shared the copied material will automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this Code can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action. During quizzes and individual assignments you must do your own work. Talking, discussion, or collaboration of any kind is not permitted on assessment based assignments. This includes comparing papers, copying answers from others, or sharing work in any way.

**NETIQUETTE: COMMUNICATION COURTESY:** All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. See the course netiquette guidelines at <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/319319/pages/netiquette>.

**GETTING HELP:**

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- (352) 392-HELP
- [Helpdesk.ufl.edu](https://helpdesk.ufl.edu)

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

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

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.

**UMATTER, WE CARE:** Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

**ONLINE 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/public-results/>.