

## Seminar in Mass Communication Teaching

MMC6936  
Academic Term: Fall 2020  
3 Credit Hours

### Instructor

Name: Dr. Evan Kropp

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Office Phone Number and Times: 352-294-1558

Virtual Office Hours: Weekdays 9:00am-4:00pm. Evenings and weekends by arrangement

### Teaching Assistants

- N/A

## Course Description & Prerequisites

The course examines teaching strategies for mass communication courses in higher education. The student will learn to identify the purpose of higher education, understand faculty roles, and create a professional teaching portfolio. In addition, the student will focus on the elements of quality course designs as well as examine their roles as a professional educator.

**Course Pre-Requisites / Co-Requisites:** None

## Course Delivery Mode & Time Commitment

This is a fully online course and you must log into Canvas with your Gatorlink username and password to access the materials and assignments. The course is organized into modules with due dates. Unless otherwise specified, each module begins on Monday at 12:00 AM, ET, and ends on Sunday at 11:59 PM, ET. The course begins with the Course Orientation (START HERE) Module, which will familiarize you with the course.

Note: Unlike other UF CJC Online courses, this is a Seminar style course that requires virtual face-to-face interaction. **Attendance is required** for weekly face-to-face meetings via Zoom. Participation will be graded. Meetings will be held weekly on Thursdays from 7:00pm-8:30pm EST.

### Time Commitment

Expect to spend between 10 to 20 hours per week, per course, watching or attending lectures, reading, working on assignments and projects, and engaging in discussions.

## Course-Level Objectives

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

1. Explain the purpose of higher education. (CO: 1)
2. Analyze faculty roles. (CO:2)
3. Create a professional teaching portfolio. (CO:3)
4. Examine the elements of quality course design. (CO:4)
5. Create course documents. (CO:5)
6. Examine personal teaching style and philosophy. (CO:6)
7. Evaluate assignment/assessment effectiveness. (CO:7)
8. Identify classroom strategies. (CO:8)
9. Investigate the role of technology. (CO:9)
10. Examine learning styles. (CO:10)
11. Examine growth opportunities as a professional teacher. (CO:11)

(CO = Course-Level Objective)

## Textbooks & Materials

### Required Course Seminal Textbook

McKeachie, W.J., & Svinicki, M.D. (2014). *McKeachie's teaching tips: strategies, research, and theory for college and university teachers*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

- ISBN-10: 1133936792
- ISBN-13: 9781133936794

### Recommended Textbook(s)

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association: The official guide to APA style*. (7th ed.).

- ISBN-13: 978-1433832161
- ISBN-10: 143383216X

[Changes in the APA 7<sup>th</sup> Edition](#)

### Publisher Materials

N/A

### Course Reserves

N/A

## Minimum Technology Requirements & Computer Skills

### COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

#### Basic Computer Specifications for Canvas

- [Specifications](#)

- Reliable Web Browser: Login to Canvas and make sure your Internet browser is compatible.

### Peripherals

- A backup option should be available to minimize any loss of work such as an external hard drive, a USB drive, cloud storage, etc.

### Hardware

- Dependable computer.
- Computer speakers.
- Headset with microphone.
- Webcam.

### Software

- [Microsoft Office 365](#).
- [UF Apps](#) – access UF software applications from any device from any location, at any time.
- Canvas Mobile App: Download instructions for [iOS device](#) or [Android device](#).
- [Adobe Reader](#)
- <https://ufl.zoom.us/>

### Internet Connection

- Recommended: Broadband Internet connection with a speed of 4 Mbps or higher.
- To function properly, Canvas requires a high-speed Internet connection (cable modem, DSL, satellite broadband, T1, etc.). The minimum Internet connection speed to access Canvas is a consistent 1.5 Mbps (megabits per second) or higher.
- [Check your Internet speed here](#).

### Subscriptions, Plug-Ins, and Other Tools

- [Adobe Flash Player](#) (Good until the Microsoft update December 31, 2020.)
- [JAVA](#)

## MINIMUM COMPUTER AND DIGITAL INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS REQUIREMENTS

The general and course-specific computer and digital information literacy skills you must have to succeed in the course include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Accessing the Internet.
- Using Canvas.
- Using email with attachments.
- Creating and submitting files in processing program such as Microsoft Office Tools.
- Copying and pasting functions.
- Downloading and installing software.
- Using presentation, graphics, and other programs.
- Posting and commenting in an online discussion.
- Searching the University of Florida library and websites.

## Technical Support

In the event that you have technical difficulties with your course, please contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) either by filling out an [online request form](#) or calling 352-392-4357 - select option 1. The Help Desk is located on the ground floor of the Hub on the UF campus.

If your technical difficulties caused you to miss a due date, you **MUST** report the problem to the Help Desk and then email your instructor. Include the ticket number that you are given from the Help Desk in an email to the instructor to explain the late assignment/quiz/test.

### IT Support

For all Technical assistance questions please contact the UF Computing Help Desk:

Phone: 352-392-HELP (4357)

Email: [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)

### Please Note

Your instructor is not able to handle technological issues or answer questions related to computer issues. If a problem of this nature arises that causes you to miss an assignment, you must provide your Help Desk ticket number to the instructor in order to receive an extension.

## Course Grading Policies

### Grading Criterion, Late Assignment Policy, and Expectations for Assignments

#### GRADING CRITERION

##### Teaching Portfolio Components (Total 40%)

The Teaching Portfolio is a valuable tool that will help you think about important aspects of being an educator and allow you to present your philosophies and accomplishments to hiring committees in a meaningful way. During most modules, an assignment will be completed that will then be added to your portfolio. These assignments will help you work through the weekly material and build-out your portfolio at the same time. Each individual assignment will be graded according to the grading chart below.

##### Final Polished Teaching Portfolio (Total 25%)

At the end of the semester, all components completed for the teaching portfolio throughout the semester will be submitted as a single polished artifact. This portfolio will serve to demonstrate your understanding of course materials and provide you with a professional document that you can use to talk about your knowledge, skills and teaching approaches with hiring committees. This portfolio is something that can be retained and added to throughout your career as you grow your career as a professional educator.

##### Seminar Meetings (Total 30%)

This course will follow a more traditional seminar style format. This means that we will intensely focus on one topic (teaching in higher education) and that your preparation for and attendance at our weekly meetings is critical to your learning. To allow you time to prepare for each weekly seminar, meetings will be held towards the end of the week on Thursdays. You are expected to have reviewed all learning resources and come to class prepared with any questions and having completed any required preparation activities prior to class.

Grades will be provided for seminar participation each week. The grade will be calculated based on your participation, preparation, and completion of any required pre-class activities.

During modules with pre-class activities, completed activities should be uploaded to Canvas prior to class. Students should have their own copy available during class to help with discussions.

In weeks where there are pre-class activities, the activity will count for 40% of the seminar grade and participation will count for 60% of the grade. In weeks where there are no pre-class activities, all points will be awarded for participation.

There will be no makeup assignments allowed for missed seminar meetings since the learning takes place through engagement with you peers.

**Reflection Paper (Total 5%)**

In the final module of the semester, you will spend time reflecting on your learning and experiences from the semester. You will explore how you have grown over the course of the semester, how you will apply your new knowledge and skills and set a plan for continued growth and success in the future.

Your grade will be calculated based on the following:

<b>Assignments/Assessments</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Weight (%)</b>
<b>Course Orientation:</b> These assignments are required; however, they not count towards the final grade. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Introduction</li> <li>• Course Evaluation</li> </ul>	0	0%
<b>14 Seminar Meetings Participation (Including Associated Deliverables)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worth up to 100 points each.</li> </ul>	1400	30%
<b>8 Teaching Portfolio Components</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teaching Philosophy Statement - Worth up to 100 points</li> <li>• Course Development Content – Worth up to 50 points</li> <li>• Syllabus – Worth up to 100 points</li> <li>• Innovative Teaching Project - Worth up to 50 points</li> <li>• Grading Rubric – Worth up to 50 points</li> <li>• Peer Review of Teaching Philosophy Statement - Worth up to 50 points</li> <li>• Teaching with Technology Assignment – Worth up to 50 points</li> <li>• Peer Review of Teaching Portfolio - Worth up to 50 points</li> </ul>	500	40%
<b>1 Final Polished Teaching Portfolio</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worth up to 100 points</li> </ul>	100	25%
<b>1 Final Reflection Paper</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worth up to 100 points.</li> </ul>	100	5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	2100	<b>100%</b>

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>92.5-100%</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>89.5-92.4%</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>86.5-89.4%</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>82.5-86.4%</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>79.5-82.4%</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>76.5-79.4%</b>

C	72.5-76.4%
C-	69.5-72.4%
D+	66.5-69.4%
D	62.5-66.4%
D-	59.5-62.4%
E	0 – 59.4%

The only passing grades for graduate students are A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, and S. Grades of B-, C+ or C count toward a graduate degree if an equal number of credits in courses numbered 5000 or higher have been earned with grades of B+, A- and A, respectively. Grade points are not given for S and U grades; S and U grades are not used to calculate grade point averages. All letter-graded courses eligible to count toward the graduate degree, except 1000- and 2000-level courses, are used to calculate the cumulative grade-point average. Letter grades of C-, D+, D, D- or E are not considered passing at the graduate level, although the grade points associated with these letter grades are included in grade point average calculations. See the [UF grading policy](#) for more information.

### LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

Late assignments will not be accepted unless it is a [University excused absence](#) as stated in the attendance policies. **No late work will be accepted for final projects or work due in the final week of class due to the university grading deadlines.** If potential issue arise concerning submitting final work, students should contact their instructors before deadlines to discuss the possibility of an Incomplete Grade Contract.

1. Late Assignment Grade Reductions
  - a. 0-24 Hours Late: 10% reduction in grade.
  - b. Over 24 Hours (24 hours and 1 minute) to 7 Calendar Days Late: 20% reduction in grade.
  - c. After the 7<sup>th</sup> Calendar Day: Work will not be accepted.
2. Late Discussions will not be accepted.

### EXPECTATIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS

- **Missed Seminar Meetings** – Since this is a seminar style course, attendance in live sessions is a required and graded component of this course. A recording of the lecture will be provided if you cannot attend. There will be no “makeup” work allowed for missed live sessions since the purpose of the sessions is to interact with your peers in exploration and discussion of the weeks’ content.
- **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/>.

## Accessibility Policy

Students requiring reasonable access to services and resources required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and other applicable federal and state regulations, please access [UF](#)

[Accessibility](#) for all options available to you. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Please register early!

### Contact Information

- For ADA questions: Dr. Russ Froman, [rfroman@ufl.edu](mailto:rfroman@ufl.edu) , Phone: 352 - 273-1094
- Disability Resource Center: Gerry Altamirano, [galtamirano@ufl.edu](mailto:galtamirano@ufl.edu) , Phone: 352 - 392-8565
- Electronic Information Technology & Communication Accessibility: Anne Allen, [alallen@ufl.edu](mailto:alallen@ufl.edu) , Phone: 352- 871-2707
- For persons with hearing or speech related accessibility needs: When trying to access an office on campus that does not list a TDD/TTY number, contact the Florida Relay Service at 800-955-8771(TDD) or 711 (V/TDD).

### Accessibility Resource Center

University of Florida  
PO Box 114085  
Gainesville, FL 32611-4085  
Phone: 352-392-8565  
[Email: accessuf@dso.ufl.edu](mailto:accessuf@dso.ufl.edu)

### Address

Environmental Health and Safety Administrative Offices  
916 Newell Dr  
Gainesville, FL 32603

For more information, see UF's [Electronic Information Technology Accessibility \(EITA\) Policy](#).

## Communication Policy

### EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS (Revise, as necessary.)

#### Announcements

You are responsible for reading all announcements posted in the courseroom each time you log in.

#### Email

You are responsible for reading all your course email and responding in a timely manner (within 24 hours).

#### Video Conferencing

You are responsible for attending course video conferencing meetings. If you cannot attend the video conferencing meeting, please advise the instructor and/or your team at least 24 hours in advance (exceptions can be made for legitimate emergencies). You are expected to demonstrate netiquette and etiquette communication expectations.

#### Course-Related Questions

Post course-related questions to the FAQ discussion board. This allows other participants with the same question to benefit from the responses. Also, make sure you review this forum prior to posting a question. Someone may have already asked and answered the question in previous posts.

### INSTRUCTOR'S PLAN FOR CLASSROOM RESPONSE TIME AND FEEDBACK

#### Email Policy

Except for weekends, holidays, and University breaks, the instructor will typically respond to emails within 48 hours. You should ask course-related questions in the FAQ discussion board. If you have questions of a personal nature, please email the instructor.

### **Assignment Feedback Policy**

The instructor will provide feedback on submitted assignments within one week of the submission date. Some assignments may require a longer review period, which the instructor will communicate to you.

### **Course-Related Questions Policy**

Except weekends and holidays, the instructor will generally answer questions within 48 hours.

### **Video Conferencing**

The instructor will provide any information on required video conferencing within the courseroom.

### **Electronic Communication Policy**

In addition to the University's policy, please consider the following:

- Privacy, confidentiality, and security in all electronic communications. See [Information Security](#).
- All electronic communication resources must be used for the course and in alignment with to the CJC Online and University mission. See the [Acceptable Use Policy](#).
- Prohibited use of false identity, false identity pseudonyms, or anonymous (sender's name or electronic identification is hidden).
- Prohibited online access without consent.
- Prohibited disruption of services including introducing computer contaminants (viruses).
- Prohibited [harassment](#) of any kind.

### **Privacy**

If your course includes live synchronous meetings, the class sessions will all 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.

Please see UF's Information Technology [policies](#) for additional information.

## Select CJC and University Policies and Guidelines

### **Academic Integrity Policy**

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

### **Netiquette**



Casual style of communication is commonly found in the online environment and students are sometimes tempted to relax their grammar, word choice, syntax (arrangement of words to create well-formed sentences), writing mechanics (capitalization, punctuation, and spelling), and/or professionalism. Keep in mind when communicating with others to be courteous, civil, respectful, and professional. Please remember that you are adult students and professionals—your communication must be appropriate.

### **Online Attendance Policy**

Since the course is online, you should access your course at least four times per week to ensure you do not miss pertinent postings, messages, or announcements. It is imperative that you meet course deadlines and stay active in discussion boards, group projects, etc. If you are experiencing a major illness, absences due to University duties, or other large-scale issues, contact the instructor immediately.

Students are responsible for meeting all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. In general, acceptable reasons for absences include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements, military obligation, [severe weather conditions](#), [religious holidays](#), and participation in official University activities. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. [Excused absences](#) must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog and require appropriate documentation. For additional information, see the [attendance policies](#).

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is unacceptable; especially, in the academic communities. All academic work must be an original work of your own thought, research, or self-expression. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, prohibited collaboration, consultation, submission of academic work that has been purchased or obtained (see the [UF Policy: Student Conduct Violation](#)). Remember that plagiarism is not acceptable in any of your work including all discussion board posts, journal entries, wikis, and other written and oral presentation assignments. Always cite your sources!

### **Software Use**

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

### **Notification to Students of FERPA Rights**

There are federal laws ([FERPA](#)) protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments.

### **Video Conferencing Etiquette**

Video conferencing is an excellent tool to interface with your peers and instructor(s) and there are also netiquette expectations to ensure that all participants are respected and treated with civility. Please make sure that you follow all of the netiquette and [etiquette](#) expectations including the following:

1. Be punctual and courteous.
2. Position your camera at eye level with good lighting.
3. Show respect and professionalism by dressing business casual or business professional.
4. Make sure your background is in a proper setting with minimal distractions.
5. Mute your microphone when you are not speaking.

### **Writing Style**

In order to meet the academic rigor and standards of a graduate program, all students are required to use the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA) 7<sup>th</sup> Edition style in their courses. The APA 7<sup>th</sup> Edition Manual has a plethora of guidelines that includes scholarly writing, publishing principles, elements and format for your papers, writing style and grammar, bias-free language guidelines, mechanics of style, intext citing and references, etc. For additional information on notable changes, see [changes between APA 6<sup>th</sup> Edition and APA 7<sup>th</sup> Edition](#).

## Academic and Student Resources

### Academic Resources

- [One UF Student Portal](#) – Course registration, final grades, transcript requests, degree audit.
- [GatorEvals](#) – Online faculty evaluations and results.
- [UF Bookstore](#): Phone: 352-392-0194, Email: [ufbookstore@bsd.ufl.edu](mailto:ufbookstore@bsd.ufl.edu)
- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.  
[UF Library Services for Distance Students](#)  
[Ask a Librarian](#) – chat with librarians online.  
CJC Librarian - [April Hines](#), Phone: 352-273-2728, Email: [apriline@uflib.ufl.edu](mailto:apriline@uflib.ufl.edu).  
[Course Reserves](#): Electronic resource reserve items that can be accessed via links or files.
- [Copyright Concerns of Graduate Researchers](#): Information and resource guide on copyright concerns.
- [Teaching Center](#): General study skills and tutoring. Broward Hall, Phone: 352-392-2010 or 352-392-6420.
- [Writing Studio](#): Provides one-on-one consultations and workshops tailored to specific classes (graduate and undergraduate). 302 Tigert Hall, Phone: 352-846-1138.
- [Online Student Complaints](#): This process is designed to make every attempt to resolve student complaints within its academic and administrative departments at the program level.
- [Information for Veterans](#): Veterans Affairs Certification: Phone: 352 - 294-2948

### Student Resources

- [Graduate Student Resources](#): Available resources for graduate students. Your advisors are here to support you, answer questions, help with registration, and other sources. Email [onlineadvising@jou.ufl.edu](mailto:onlineadvising@jou.ufl.edu).
- [U Matter, We Care](#): If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or Phone: 352-294-2273 so that a team member can reach out.
- [Counseling and Wellness Center](#): [3190 Radio Road, Gainesville, FL 32611](#)  
[Phone: \(352\) 392-1575, Fax: \(352\) 273-4738](#)

- [Sexual Violence Response](#): Victim services, Care Area, UF Police Department, and Title IX.
- [University Police Department](#): Resources available include the Office of Victim Services and Community Services Division. Emergency: 9-1-1; Non-Emergency: 352-392-1111.
- [Gator Connect](#): Online database of student organizations.
- [Career Connection Center](#): Career assistance and counseling. Reitz Union, Phone: 352-392-1601.
- [Veteran Services](#): Office of Student Veteran Services, Phone: 352-294-2948, email: [vacounselor@ufl.edu](mailto:vacounselor@ufl.edu). | Collegiate Veterans Success Center, Phone: 352- 294-7215, email: [charlotte.kemper@va.gov](mailto:charlotte.kemper@va.gov).
- [Student Financial Affairs](#): Financial aid counseling including Aid-a-Gator program. Phone: 352-392-1275.
- [Student Success Coach](#): Meet with a graduate student coach that can support you in numerous ways during your time in graduate school, such as time and stress management, motivation, organization, and much more.



**The instructor reserves the right to adjust this syllabus, as necessary.**