

MMC6936: Mixed Methods
Spring 2024
College of Journalism and Communications
University of Florida

INSTRUCTOR	Jinping Wang, Ph.D. Assistant Professor 2080 Weimer Hall jinping.wang@ufl.edu
CLASS LOCATION & TIME	0275 FLG Thursdays 1:55 pm - 4:55 pm
STUDENT HOURS	Mondays 2:30 – 3:30 pm and Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:00 am or by appointment
COMMUNICATION:	If you can't make it to my student hours, email and message on canvas are the preferred modes of communication. Usually I'll respond within 24 hours.

Course Description

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 and strategies, analyze data, and present results.

Course Objectives:

- 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.

Course Pre-Requisites / Co-Requisites

All graduate students interested in mixed-methods approaches are welcome but a solid grasp of basic concepts towards both qualitative and quantitative research is helpful.

Required Text

Creswell, J. W., & Clark, V. L. P. (2017). *Designing and Conducting Mixed Methods Research* (3rd edition). SAGE Publications, Inc.

Additional readings will be available through Canvas.

Assessment:

Grades will be based on a combination of categories as follows:

Assignment	% of Total
Class participation & activities	10%
Perusall comments	20%
Topic discussion leader	15%
Method review	15%
Research Proposal (presentation 10% + final paper 30%)	40%
TOTAL	100%

- **Class participation & activities (10%):** You are expected to be an active member of the class. Meaning, you will engage in discussions about the readings and weekly topics. And various activities will be conducted in and out of class throughout the semester that support the readings.
- **Perusall comments (20%):** A subset of required readings will be assigned on the Perusall platform through your Canvas account, beginning in Week 1 through Week 14. Students are expected to have completed all the required readings/materials, provide substantive comments on the readings on Perusall, and be prepared to discuss them in class. Comments are due every week on **Monday at 5pm**.
- **Topic discussion leader (15%):** You will lead a discussion based on a weekly topic you select. You will be responsible for the week’s readings and will post at least three “thought starter” questions on the discussion board the night before class. During class, you will facilitate a discussion and steer the conversation. You will also provide a brief one-page outline of the readings. It is recommended that you begin with a general synopsis of all the articles, followed by key discussion points to examine/debate. Your introductory discussion should be about 10-20 minutes, broadly discussing all of the articles before examining each one in detail.
- **Method Review (15%):** Complete a methodological review of literature related to your area of interest. The goal of the paper is to analyze the methodological components and findings of studies related about your general topic. Students have the option of analyzing and reviewing mixed methods studies on the topic or the potential for mixed methods research based on an analysis of empirical studies on a topic.
- **Research proposal (presentation 10% + final paper 30%):** Students will present a 15-minute oral presentation in class of their proposed mixed methods research study design for the final paper and obtain feedback from their classmates. At the end of the semester, a full proposal, including background (i.e. literature review), research questions/hypotheses and a comprehensive summary of mixed methodology section is required.

Under circumstances where you cannot submit their assignments on time due to unanticipated reasons, please contact me to plan on a workaround.

Grading Scale

Grade	Scale	
A	93-100	Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes
A-	90-92.99	Generally outstanding performance on almost all learning outcomes
B+	87-89.99	High performance on all learning outcomes

B	84-86.99	Generally high performance on almost all learning outcomes
B-	80-83.99	Satisfactory performance on all learning outcomes
C+	77-79.99	Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes.
C	73-76.99	Somewhat satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes.
C-	70-72.99	Somewhat satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.
D+	67-69.99	Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes
D	60-66.99	Barely satisfactory performance on all learning outcomes
F	59.99 and below	Unsatisfactory performance on learning outcomes.

Course Policies and Responsibilities

Students are expected to behave professionally and respectfully towards their classmates and the instructor.

- Arrive on time and stay until the end of class.
- Cell phones, and other electronic devices must be turned off or silent during class. They are only permitted for note taking and relevant class activities.
- Syllabus is subject to change as instructor deems appropriate and necessary.
- It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course. The success of an inclusive classroom relies on the participation, support, and understanding of you and your peers.
 - If you have a name and/or set of pronouns you prefer, please let me know!
 - I encourage you to speak up and share your views, but also understand that you are doing so in a learning environment in which we all are expected to engage respectfully and with regard to the dignity of all others.
 - Your suggestions are always encouraged and appreciated. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or comments on ways to improve the effectiveness of the course.

University Policies

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:

Plagiarism Definition - A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another.

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
- Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authorized by the student.
- Unauthorized use of materials or resources.
- Prohibited collaboration or consultation.
- Submission of paper or academic work purchased or obtained for an outside source.

Students should be familiar with and understand UF's Plagiarism Policy as found in the UF Student Honor Code Student Conduct Code.

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 of Florida Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness Resources:

- *U Matter, We Care* serves as the umbrella program for the caring culture at the University of Florida. If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *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.
- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services*: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.
- *Students with Disabilities*: Students with disabilities can receive accommodations. The first step is to contact the Disability Resource Center (352-329-8565; www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). Once you receive your accommodation letter, provide a copy to the professor as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Resources:

- *E-learning technical support*: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or 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.