

**ADV 4331 AI-Driven Social Media Insights/MMC 6936 Social Media Analytics & Strategy
Fall 2025**

Meeting Time and Location: Tuesdays 11:45 am – 1:40 pm (**WEIM G030**)
Thursdays 12:50 – 1:40 pm (**WEIM 2050**)

Instructor:

Dr. Yang Feng

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Office: Weimer Hall 1200

Office Hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays 2-3 pm (Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/2878807530>)

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Prerequisites:

Undergraduate students: ADV 3008 and MAR 3023 with minimum grades of C and Advertising major of junior standing or higher.

Graduate students: Consent of instructor or graduate adviser.

No previous programming experience required.

Course Description

This course caters to students intrigued by social media campaigns, including influencer marketing and societal initiatives, irrespective of their programming background. It melds the theoretical underpinnings of social media analytics with hands-on experience in Python and supplementary software tools, presented through lectures, workshops, and interactive discussions.

The semester begins with an immersion into Python's core concepts and essential packages tailored for social media analysis. As the course progresses, we shift our focus to real-world social media campaign studies. Students will be equipped to harness Python for comprehensive brand solutions within the algorithmic social media landscape, encompassing data acquisition, analysis, and visualization.

What you need to bring to class

Your laptop (either PC or MAC) and earphone

Software and tools we need to use in class

Google Colab, Microsoft Excel, ChatGPT, Leonardo AI

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO): What You'll Learn along the Way

SLO #1: Describe the role of Python and other software in social media analytics.

SLO #2: Explain the role of the algorithmic social media environment in shaping advertising effectiveness.

SLO #3: Perform social media advertising research using Python and other software.

SLO #4: Evaluate the performances of both dictionary-based and machine learning-based sentiment analysis techniques.

SLO #5: Interpret research results and present them in a story-telling format.

Course Materials

Course materials are available on Canvas.

Textbook and Readings

There is no required textbook.

Grading Policy: How I'll Determine Your Grade

The overall grading system in this course is:

A = 93-100	C = 73-76
A- = 90-92	C- = 70-72
B+ = 87-89	D+ = 67-69
B = 83-86	D = 63-66
B- = 80-82	D- = 60-62
C+ = 77-79	F = 59 and below

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades>

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

Course Assessment

Weekly reflection posts	30 points
Class discussion	10 points
Project 1 (Team-based)	30 points
Project 2 (Team-based)	30 points

Total **100 points**

General Class Policies

Cellphone: Silence your phone or turn it to airplane mode prior to entering the class.

Late Assignments –Unexcused late class assignments or projects will be penalized 10% of the assigned marks each day. However, a student who presents the instructor with a documented (i.e., written and verifiable, not oral) reason for an absence normally within a week will be given an opportunity to make up the work missed if this is feasible.

Incompletes – No incomplete grades will be issued except in extraordinary and well-documented circumstances.

Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy

Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Undergraduate Catalog and Graduate Catalog and require appropriate documentation.

Formal Course Assessment: How You'll Know You're Learning

1. Weekly Reflection Posts: (30 points)

Given the workshop format of this course, your participation is critical. You should finish all your readings and be prepared to talk and contribute to class discussions. **Also, each week on Thursday (by 12:50 pm), you are required to post what you have read or practiced in that week and your opinions about the reading material (or practice) on Canvas Discussion Forum (except for Week 1 and Week 16).**

Your posts will be evaluated on a 10-point scale (0 for poor, 10 for excellent), based on the following:

- Student ability to answer discussion questions.
- Student ability to raise questions based on the reading.
- Student ability to respond to questions posed by classmates.

*****Note: For certain weeks, your weekly reflection post should contain at least 150 words (if you are an undergraduate student) or at least 300 words (if you are a graduate student).**

2. Class Discussion: (10 points)

Given the workshop format of this course, your participation in discussion is critical. You are encouraged to finish all the in-class exercises during class time and be prepared to talk and contribute to class discussions.

Assignment Grading:

Your participation in class discussions will be evaluated by the instructor during lecture weeks on a 10-point scale, with 0 indicating no participation and 10 representing the most active participation. This evaluation will be based on three main criteria:

1. Active participation in discussions on course topics.
2. Responding to questions posed by the instructor or classmates.
3. Raising questions about the readings and course topics during class.

3. Projects (60 points)

There will be three team-based projects throughout the semester. Therefore, it is important for students to come to class on a regular basis.

Project 1: group presentation on sentiment analysis (due date: **October 28**) (30 points)

Project 2: group presentation on AI-generated content (due date: **December 2**) (30 points)

Grading will be based on:

- 1) Team ability to run Python coding and/or other software to analyze data.
- 2) Team ability to present sufficient research results to support claims.
- 3) Team ability to organize information in an efficient and a story-telling way.
- 4) Team ability to generate creative visuals.
- 5) Team ability to deliver effective oral presentation.

*****Note: If you are a graduate student, please add a discussion section in your project to discuss how the results shed light on any advertising/mass communication theory.**

4. Peer Evaluation

You will be evaluated **two times** during the semester by your team members. This is not a popularity rating but an objective evaluation of the commitment and quality of your efforts and contributions as seen by your team members. An average for both evaluations over the course of the semester will be computed for each team member. The evaluation form will be provided at the appropriate time. All evaluations are strictly confidential.

Your average team evaluation at the end of the semester will be used to adjust the amount of team points that **you** will receive as follows:

Your average evaluation for semester	Your percent of team points received
90% or above	Full points (100%)
85% to 89%	90%
80% to 84%	70%
70% to 79%	50%
69% or below	10%

For instance, let's assume your team performs exceptionally well and earns the maximum number of team points for the semester, which is 60 points. However, if your team feels that you didn't contribute significantly and consequently rates you an average evaluation of 81%, you would receive only 42 points ($60 * 70\%$) for all team-based assessments. Conversely, a team member with an average evaluation of 92% would secure the full 60 points for all team-based assessments. This example illustrates how group evaluations can lead to significantly different grades for members within the same team.

Participation in the evaluation process is not optional. **If you fail to turn in an evaluation for any person on your team at the time that evaluation is due, you will receive zero points for that evaluation period.**

Course Topic & Schedule: What You'll Be Doing

The lecture topics and relevant readings for each class are listed in the table below. Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings for the week BEFORE the weekly reflection post due time. **Topics and schedule are subject to change.**

Date	Topic	Readings	Class Work and Assignments
Week 1 August 21	Course Orientation and Programming in Python	Will AI Make Agencies Obsolete? The Future Of Advertising (https://www.forbes.com/councils/forbestechcouncil/2025/05/22/will-ai-make-agencies-obsolete-the-future-of-advertising/)	
Week 2 August 26	Variables and Data Types	Week 2 Weely Reflection on Canvas	In-class: log into Google Colab via your Gmail and start coding
August 28	Variables and Data Types		In-class: log into Google Colab via your Gmail and start coding Due: weekly reflection post (reading assignment)
Week 3 September 2	Lists	Week 3 Weely Reflection on Canvas	In-class: log into Google Colab via your Gmail and start coding
September 4	Lists		In-class: log into Google Colab via your Gmail and start coding Due: weekly reflection post (reading assignment)
Week 4 September 9	Dictionaries	Week 4 Weely Reflection on Canvas	In-class: log into Google Colab via your Gmail and start coding
September 11	Dictionaries		In-class: log into Google Colab via your Gmail and start coding Due: weekly reflection post (reading assignment)
Week 5 September 16	For Loops		In-class: log into Google Colab via your Gmail and start coding

September 18	For Loops	Week 5 Weely Reflection on Canvas	In-class: log into Google Colab via your Gmail and start coding Due: weekly reflection post (reading assignment)
Week 6 September 23	Conditional Statements		In-class: log into Google Colab via your Gmail and start coding
September 25	Conditional Statements		In-class: log into Google Colab via your Gmail and start coding Due: weekly reflection post (reading assignment)
Week 7 September 30	Conditional Statements and Pandas		In-class: log into Google Colab via your Gmail and start coding
October 2	Conditional Statements and Pandas		In-class: log into Google Colab via your Gmail and start coding Due: weekly reflection post (reading assignment)
Week 8 October 7	Case Study 1: Emotional Reactions of Users toward a YouTube campaign	5 facts about Americans and YouTube	Introduction to the YouTube Data Tools
October 9	Case Study 1: Emotional Reactions of Users toward a YouTube campaign		Review the Python code; get familiar with Pandas Due: weekly reflection post (reading assignment)
Week 9 October 14	Case Study 1: Emotional Reactions of Users toward a YouTube campaign	Facebook Feed Ranked Comments AI system	Review Python code, interpret results, and understand fundamentals of comment ranking, sentiment analysis, and machine learning.
October 16	No class meeting – Instructor attending a conference.		Due: weekly reflection post (reading assignment)
Week 10 October 21	Case Study 1: Emotional Reactions of Users toward a YouTube campaign	The YouTube Comment Section Algorithm Makes Shaping the Comment Section a Very Tricky Business, Here's Why:	

October 23	Case Study 1: Emotional Reactions of Users toward a YouTube campaign		Discuss recommendation algorithm fundamentals. Analyze campaign effectiveness considering the recommendation algorithm's role. Due: weekly reflection post (reading assignment)
Week 11 October 28	Presentations on Project 1		Due: Project 1; Peer Evaluation 1
October 30	Case Study 2: Content Generation and AI	How Generative AI Is Changing Creative Work	Explore YouTube's recommendation algorithm intricacies. Grasp video connections and their platform-wide ripple effects in this workshop. Due: weekly reflection post (reading assignment)
Week 12 November 4	Case Study 2: Content Generation and AI		Due: Project 2; Peer Evaluation 2
November 6	Case Study 2: Content Generation and AI	The Amazing Ways L'Oréal Is Using AI To Transform The Beauty Industry Forever	Explore AI's role in generating creative content on social media. Due: weekly reflection post (reading assignment)
Week 13 November 11	Veterans Day, No Class Meeting		
November 13	Case Study 2: Content Generation and AI	Photographers are mad that Instagram is labelling edited photos as 'made with AI' while ignoring AI generated images	Discuss human-AI collaboration and AGI.
Week 14 November 18	Case Study 2: Content Generation and AI		Due: weekly reflection post (reading assignment)
November 20	Hands-On Workshop (project 3)	Understanding the Legal and Regulatory Landscape of Generative AI	Discuss prompt engineering
Week 15 November 25/27	Happy Thanksgiving		
Week 16 December 2	Presentations on Project 2		Due: Project 2; Peer Evaluation 2

University Honesty 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. 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 Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-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 appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

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.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see:

<http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

Courser 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.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center. 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.

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.
<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.
<https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

Student Complaints Campus: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf.

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>.