Instructor: Dr. Jacob T. Watson
Email: jacobwatson@ufl.edu
Office / Hours: Zoom / Tuesdays 2-3pm

OVERVIEW
The two goals of this course are: 1. to explore the diversity of undergraduate research activities available to UF students, including local, national, and international experiences; and 2. to equip students with an array of transferrable skills that can be applied in a broad range of research environments. Students will gain research-specific communication skills and research-oriented professionalization strategies. They will also learn how to apply for, obtain, and succeed in a wide variety of funded research opportunities.

OBJECTIVES
- navigate a range of research opportunities and resources available to UF students
- communicate effectively with faculty mentors
- formulate and refine a research question
- compile a bibliography related to a specific research question
- conceptualize and propose an original undergraduate research project
ASSIGNMENTS

Forums
Every other week, students will be asked to post an assignment to the class forum. In addition to creating posts, students will also be asked to reply to their classmate’s posts as part of their weekly discussion forum activity. As a general rule, posts contributed to the forum will be evaluated for thoughtful completion. To do well in this category, students should post whenever asked to do so and do their best on each forum assignment. Each student’s overall contribution to the forums will be assessed as one quarter of their total course grade.

Annotated Bibliography
At the midpoint of the semester, students will turn in a bibliography of sources related to a research question of interest. The bibliography should contain at least six scholarly sources. Each source listed will be accompanied by a 1-paragraph original summary and explanation of relevance. Bibliographies will be graded in accordance with a rubric.

Proposal
At the end of the semester, students will turn in a research project proposal similar to what many research program applications require. The proposal will outline a hypothetical project that the student could undertake to investigate their research question. It will include a description of the significance of the research project and will discuss the proposed methods that will be used to achieve a result. The proposal should be realistic in scope and founded in the preliminary knowledge gained through previous assignments and classroom activities. Proposals will be graded in accordance with a rubric.

Participation
The participatory components of this course will include reading discussions, live Q&A sessions, and other class activities. For Q&As, everyone is required to post (or ask) two questions for the guest speaker before or during the Q&A session and write-up their biggest takeaway from the Q&A by the day after.

Over the course of the semester, student participation will be observed and qualitatively assessed. Quality of participation includes factors like frequency and value of contributions to discussions and guest Q&As, evidence of preparation, and general attitude. To do well in participation, students should always engage to the best of their ability in discussion, and refrain from distracting behavior or inattentiveness whenever someone else is addressing the class. In general, student should ALWAYS avoid doing or saying anything hostile or disrespectful toward any person in the class. Overall quality of weekly participation will be evaluated as one quarter of the course grade.
GRADING
Grading percentages are as follows:

- Forums: 25%
- Participation: 25%
- Annotated Bibliography: 25%
- Project Proposal: 25%

Grading scale:

A=92.5-100; A-=89.5-92.4; B+=86.5-89.4; B=82.5-86.4; B-=79.5-82.4; C+=76.5-79.4; 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=<59.5

ATTENDANCE
Students who need to miss class should let me know as far in advance as possible. Absences due to illness and other unavoidable circumstances are usually excused, but still need to be discussed with me on a case-by-case basis. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure any work missed due to an absence gets completed. Unexcused absences will result in the loss of participation points, and more than 7 unexcused absences will result in automatic failure.

LATE WORK
Late work will not be accepted except under extenuating circumstances. Students in need of an extension for medical or other reasons should meet with the instructor prior to the assignment deadline if possible.

EVALUATIONS
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at http://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/. To help improve the course and maximize the benefit for students, additional, informal evaluations will be assigned at the beginning and midpoint of the semester.

DISABILITY NOTICE
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.
SCHEDULE

Weeks 1-3: Welcome to Research (No Class MLK Day: 01/18/21)

1: syllabus; course overview; introductory forum posts
2/3: Why Research? video; University Scholars Q&A; reading discussion

Weeks 4-5: Preliminary Research

4: conducting online research; how to read an article; topic selection activity
5: guest live Q&A; reading discussion
Readings: *Constructing Research Questions*, ch. 2

Weeks 6-7: The Research Project

6: refining the research question; how to make a bibliography; research question activity
7: guest live Q&A; reading discussion

Weeks 8-9: Reaching Out

8: finding a mentor; how to write a proposal; contacting PIs activity
9: guest live Q&A; reading discussion
Readings: David G. Oppenheimer, *Getting In*, ch. 6: “Your Application Strategy”

Weeks 10-11: Finding Resources and Funding

10: virtual visit to a special collection; application activity
11: student panel live Q&A; reading discussion
Readings: JUR articles (TBD)

Weeks 12-13: Research Writing

12: visually and verbally curating data; academic conferences; JUR activity
13: guest live Q&A; reading discussion
Readings: *Scientific Writing = Thinking in Words*, ch. 1: “Thinking about Your Writing”

Weeks 14-15: Peer Review and Wrap-Up
COVID-19 Safety Protocols

For students receiving face-to-face instruction this semester, certain protocols for health and safety must be followed strictly and conscientiously. The following classroom policies regarding Covid-19 safety have been established to ensure that all face-to-face interactions conform to CDC guidelines and university policy.

University Behavior Policies

Remember that there are strict and crucial policies regarding behavioral expectations during this time. During the semester, you may find yourself in a circumstance that requires you to abstain from physical class attendance, quarantine, or otherwise alter your behavior. **You may NOT attend physical class if you are feeling ill.** Review the university policies regarding behavioral requirements: [https://policy.ufl.edu/policy/student-behavioral-expectations-in-response-to-covid-19/](https://policy.ufl.edu/policy/student-behavioral-expectations-in-response-to-covid-19/). These policies are strictly enforced and failure to adhere to these expectations will result in a report to the Dean of Students and a possible conduct code violation.

Seating Capacity

In order to maintain social distancing, the seating capacity of all UF classrooms is being held at around twenty percent of normal capacity. Our classroom this semester—Farrior Hall 2000—has a maximum capacity of 6 students. Only students who are registered for a face-to-face will be allowed to enter the classroom. Students who register for online sections are expected to attend online and will not be able to switch during the term. However, students registered for the face-to-face section may attend online if they wish.

Mask-Wearing Policy

In keeping with UF Health guidelines, students in face-to-face sections will be expected to maintain physical distancing in the classroom and to remain masked during the class meeting. This applies to the instructors as well. **Students are required to wear masks in the classroom at all times without exception.**

Social-Distancing Policy

Students may only sit in certain seats, which will be marked accordingly. On the first day of face-to-face instruction, seats will be assigned. Students will only sit in their assigned seat.

Students are encouraged not to enter the building until a few minutes before class begins. While waiting to enter the classroom, students must stand on specially marked spaces on the second floor lobby of Farrior Hall to ensure appropriate distancing.

When entering or exiting the room, students should do so one at a time, maintaining the six-foot distancing rule. Students should only enter or exit via the door nearest their assigned seat. At the end of each class, students will exit the room in order of distance from their seat to the exit, with students seated nearest the exit leaving first.
The front of the room will be marked off for the instructor only. **Do not approach the instructor or step into the instructor area of the room at any time.**

**Disinfecting Policy**

Before leaving the classroom, students are required to sanitize the area around their seat by wiping the armrests and spraying down the chair and desk with disinfectant. Cleaning supplies will be provided for this purpose.

Hand sanitizer will be provided in a dispenser located in the second-floor lobby. Students are encouraged to carry their own sanitizer as well. Students should sanitize their hands before and after touching common surfaces such as doors.

**Weekly Schedule Note**

Some class sessions will be conducted entirely via Zoom. These have been notated in yellow on the course schedule. While currently these are the only planned “all-zoom” days, circumstances throughout the term may require us to conduct additional class sessions entirely remotely.