



## Challenge 2050: Creating Solutions

ALS 4419, 1 credit, Fall Semester

### Course Instructor:

Dr. Matthew Sowcik

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**Office Hours:** Please make an appointment

### Course Overview

This course creates a capstone experience for the Global Challenge Certificate. Throughout this course, students will demonstrate and apply knowledge, skills, and dispositions in assigned transdisciplinary teams. Students will complete a comprehensive proposal for a developmental initiative focused on addressing the 2050 Challenge of sustaining a global population.

Initiatives can include, but are not limited to policy recommendations to state or federal legislature, white papers for agencies such as the World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization, World Bank, or major innovations in the field of agricultural and life sciences and related fields. This course is a direct reflection of the “real work, for real problems, for real people” concept and is a critical part of the challenge-based authentic learning approach.

### Course Objectives

Given participation in the course, students will have the opportunity to engage in the mastery of the following objectives:

- 1) Gain experiential knowledge associated with the process of accomplishing strategic goals with interdisciplinary classmates
- 2) Recognize how completion of a developed action has tangible value and community-level application
- 3) Explore adaptive challenges and advance adaptive capacity for the development and implementation of solutions associated with global population fluctuation
- 4) Develop confidence and commitment for community and global leadership

### Course Structure

Progression through this course is self-directed with instructor led parameters. Students will formally meet every Wednesday to plan, develop, and execute their transdisciplinary projects. Instructors will facilitate team building and leadership development efforts while serving as a resource during this process. Students will leave this course with a comprehensive Challenge 2050 project that can be advanced to the One World Competition.

### Course Materials

- Knapp, J., Zeratsky, J., & Kowitz, B. (2016). *Sprint: How to solve big problems and test new ideas in just five days*. Simon and Schuster.
- Appropriate resources targeting the development of team projects will be provided throughout the semester.

### Course Requirements

*Attendance* - The course is designed to encourage active learning, therefore being present in class is extremely important. Students will receive ¼ (25%) of their grade for showing up to class prepared to discuss their ideas and the information from the course.

*Ask the Experts & Video* – You will need to locate two experts on the topic (one must be from UF) and conduct a 30 minute to hour long interview with both. Next you will be creating a video addressing the key themes and learnings that occurred in both interviews. More will be explained in class. This will also be ¼ (25%) of your grade.

*Additional Homework* – You will be asked to complete approximately a dozen smaller deliverables that will be marked complete/incomplete. This will also be ¼ (25%) of your grade.

*Final Project Video* – You will be creating a submission video for the end of the course. This will also be ¼ (25%) of your grade.

### **Course Grading Scale:**

A 93.4-100 %	A- 90-93.3%	B+ 86.7-89.9 %	B 83.4-86.6 %
B- 80-83.3 %	C+ 76.7-79.9 %	C 73.4-76.6 %	C- 70-73.3 %
D+ 66.7-69.9 %	D 63.4-66.6 %	D- 60-63.3 %	E <60.0 %

University of Florida Grade & Grade Points Policy can be found at:  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#grades>.

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. Students will be given specific times when the evaluations are available. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

### **Course Policies:**

**E-Learning:** All students are expected to check E-Learning (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu>) on a regular basis. Please ensure that you have access to this service. Grades are posted here.

**Academic Integrity: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.**

In the fall of 1995, the UF student body enacted a new honor code and voluntarily committed itself to the highest standards of honesty and integrity (See UF Rule [6C1-4.017](#)). Students are required to be honest in all of their university class work. Faculty members have a duty to promote ethical behavior and avoid practices and environments that foster cheating. Faculty should encourage students to bring incidents of dishonesty to their attention. A faculty member, in certain circumstances, can resolve an academic dishonesty matter without a student disciplinary hearing. The procedures and guidelines are available from the [Student Guide](#). All students at the University of Florida have pledged, *On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment* (2014-2015 Undergraduate Catalog).

**Software Use:** All UF faculty, staff and students 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, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

**Campus Helping Resources:** Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. Both the Counseling Center and Student Mental Health Services provide confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance. The Counseling Center is located at 301 Peabody Hall (next to Criser Hall). Student Mental Health Services is located on the second floor of the Student Health Care Center in the Infirmary.

- *University Counseling Center*, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, [www.counsel.ufl.edu](http://www.counsel.ufl.edu)
- *Career Resource Center*, CR-100 JWRU, 392-1602, [www.crc.ufl.edu/](http://www.crc.ufl.edu/)
- *Student Mental Health Services*, Rm. 245 Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, [www.shcc.ufl.edu/smhs/](http://www.shcc.ufl.edu/smhs/)
  - Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)
  - Center for Sexual Assault / Abuse Recovery & Education (CARE)
  - Eating Disorders Program
  - Employee Assistance Program
  - Suicide Prevention Program

**Students with Disabilities:** "Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation."

Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. 0001 Reid Hall, 392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)

### Course Schedule

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	<b>8-21</b>	<b>Intro and Class Setup</b>
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>8-28</b>	<b>Preparing for the SPRINT</b>
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>9-4</b>	<b>Preparing for the SPRINT</b>
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>9-11</b>	<b>Monday Morning</b>
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>9-18</b>	<b>Monday Morning Continued</b>
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>9-25</b>	<b>Monday Afternoon</b>
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>10-2</b>	<b>Tuesday Morning</b>
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>10-9</b>	<b>Tuesday Afternoon</b>
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>10-16</b>	<b>Wednesday Morning</b>
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>10-23</b>	<b>Mental Health Week (ILA) – No Class</b>
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>11-30</b>	<b>Wednesday Afternoon</b>
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>11-6</b>	<b>Thursday Morning</b>
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>11-13</b>	<b>Thursday Afternoon</b>

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>Week 14</b>	<b>11-20</b>	<b>Friday Morning/Afternoon</b>
<b>Week 15</b>	<b>11-27</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>
<b>Week 16</b>	<b>12-4</b>	<b>Final Presentation</b>