

AEC 6932 Mixed-Method Research
Fall 2024 (August 24 – December 7); 3 Credits
Tuesday 8-10 periods (3:00-6:00)

Instructor:

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-Office hours: By appointment

Class Meets:

The class meets in 306 Rolfs Hall. The course also has an online component available through Canvas, the University of Florida's e-learning system.

Course Organization:

Within Canvas, the course is organized by weekly modules. The course homepage can be accessed 24 hours a day and contains everything you will need to complete this course, including: the syllabus, details for completion of every assignment, course information, tools for communicating with the instructor and other students, etc. A weekly learning module typically contains: 1) the topic and learning objectives for the week; 2) a list of assigned readings from your required textbook and/or additional sources; 3) case studies and/or lecture handouts that will be used during the live sessions; and 4) information about assignments and/or discussion questions that are due that week (see: "[A note about on-line participation](#)"). You can access the e-learning platform by directing your browser to elearning.ufl.edu and clicking on "Log in to e-Learning". When prompted, enter your Gatorlink ID and password to log in the system. You can learn more about using Canvas here: <https://elearning.ufl.edu/keep-learning/>. Please note that our class sessions may be audio visually recorded.

Course Description:

The purpose of this graduate course is to provide an overview of the foundations and applications of mixed methods research (MMR). The course is designed to cover concepts relevant to the process of designing and conducting mixed methods and participatory research studies. The content, organization, and activities of the course will be equally valuable for students with a significant experience in quantitative and/or qualitative research than to students with little or no experience in research.

Objectives:

Upon completing the course, students will be able to conceptualize and carry out high quality MMR that integrate diverse methodologies and methods, including participatory approaches. Specifically, students will be able to...

- value the contributions of MMR to the understanding of the social world.
- understand the philosophical, theoretical, and historical evolution of MMR.
- explain the characteristics and fundamental concepts of MMR.
- apply critical thinking skills to make an informed decision regarding the appropriateness of using MMR to answer a given research question.
- compare and contrast different MMR designs.
- set up and conduct rigorous MMR studies.

Required Textbook and Readings:

Students are expected to purchase the text (Available at the University of Florida Bookstores or at online providers):

- Plowright, D. (2011). *Using mixed methods; frameworks for an integrated methodology*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
 - Creswell, J. W. & Plano Clark, V. L. (2017). *Designing and conducting mixed methods research*. (3rd Ed) Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Supplementary readings will be assigned.

Class Dynamics:

Class participation is a key component of this course since the social construction of knowledge is a chief expectation from students; this will be achieved through transformative dialogue in the form of in-class group discussion and collaborative hands-on experiences. All students are expected to actively participate in the discussion of the assigned readings for the week and on the various learning activities planned for the course. In each live session, the instructor will use lectures, discussions, reflective exercises, case studies, and other hands-on activities to help the students acquire and apply the relevant knowledge and skills required for designing and implementing an MMR study.

Assignments, Dates, Grades, and Feedback:

Please see the section on "[A note about written reports](#)" to become familiar with the general instructions for written assignments. The following are your assignments for the term:

- ***Participate in class***

You are expected to attend and actively participate in the class discussions and activities. Participation also includes reading the assigned texts in advance of each class, reviewing related materials, and sharing your ideas during class discussions and/or activities. You may be asked to bring materials to class, react to other students' work, or turn in your own work for comments as part of the participation grade.

- ***Complete reflection papers***

You will write a one-page, single-spaced reflection paper in response to each of three reflection questions posted during the semester. The reflection papers should draw on content learned in class and apply the concepts to your own research, perspectives, and/or experiences.

- *Classify and critique two articles*

This assignment involves identifying two mixed methods studies published in peer-reviewed journals that demonstrate the core characteristics of mixed methods advanced in the textbook. For each study, write a three-page, double-spaced review paper that: (a) summarizes the study's content, (b) classifies the overall mixed methods design and related design decisions, and (c) critiques the procedures as an example of mixed methods research. In addition, draw a procedural diagram for each study and submit the diagram with your review paper. You should attach copies of the two original articles to your submission.

- *Complete the quizzes*

The quizzes will be comprehensive of the content addressed in the class up to that point in the semester.

- *Complete a major project paper*

Select a major project from the options listed below or as specified by the instructor. Develop a 25-page paper (plus references and appendixes) on this topic that demonstrates your understanding of mixed methods research. Your writing should be double-spaced and follow the standards established in the course, including using a specified style manual format for in-text and end-of-text references. The project paper options are:

- *Develop a proposal for a mixed methods research study*

Prepare a proposal describing in detail a mixed methods research study that you plan to complete. The proposal paper should reflect the proposal outline and topics suggested in Table 8.1 of the textbook.

- *Report the results from a mixed methods research study*

Design, implement, and report a mixed methods study on a topic of your choice. The report paper should reflect the outline and topics suggested in Table 8.4 of the textbook.

- *Develop a methodological discussion*

Select an important topic related to mixed methods research and review the relevant literature. Prepare a methodological discussion that summarizes this literature, highlights different perspectives within it, and offers new insights or suggestions based on your interpretations. The review paper should include an introduction with purpose statement, discussion of how relevant sources were identified and your summary procedures, presentation of results, and discussion of your conclusions.

You will submit a draft of your Major Project Paper by Week 8. The final submission will be on Week 14.

- *Present your project*

Prepare a presentation to the class about your project. Each presentation will last 5-10 minutes (depending on the number of students enrolled in the class) and should convey the major aspects of your project paper.

<i>Activity/Assignment</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>% of Final Grade</i>	
<i>Class Attendance and Participation (14)</i>	Weekly	10%	
<i>Reflection Papers (3)</i>	#1 09/10/24	5%	
	#2 10/01/24	5%	
	#3 10/22/24	5%	
<i>Article Classification and Critique (1)</i>	11/12/24	15%	
<i>Quizzes (3)</i>	1st 09/24/24	5%	
	2nd 10/29/24	5%	
	3rd 11/19/24	5%	
<i>Course Project</i>	<i>Major Project Draft</i>	10/08/24	10%
	<i>Major Project Paper</i>	12/03/24	30%
	<i>Major Project Presentation</i>	12/03/24	5%
	<i>Total % (Points)</i>		100% (1000 points)

Based on the expectations provided for each activity/assignment, the instructor will complete the grading process and post grades within 10 business days of the activity/assignment’s due date specified in the syllabus. The points obtained by the student in all the assignments will be added to calculate the final grade in alignment with the Course Grading Scale shown below. Grades will be posted on Canvas where students can securely and privately access them. Please carefully read the whole syllabus for information on other university’s policies and services relevant to grades and grading – contact the instructor if additional information is required.

Course Grading Scale

A	940-1000	A-	900-939	B+	870-899
B	840-869	B-	800-839	C+	770-799
C	740-769	C-	700-739	D+	670-699
D	640-669	D-	610-639	E	609 or less

When posting grades, the instructor will include clear, concise, and relevant written and/or verbal feedback to further promote students’ learning. If additional information is required by the student, the instructor can be contacted via email to schedule an individual meeting or a phone/Zoom call to discuss the assignment, grade, and feedback provided. Students are strongly encouraged to contact the instructor with any questions they may have related to the course content, activities, and assignments. Questions placed during class sessions will be immediately addressed by the instructor while consultations made outside of class sessions will normally be responded within 24 hours.

Course Schedule

Date	Week: Topic	Readings*	Due**
08/27/24	1: Course Introduction	Additional readings	
09/03/24	2: The Nature of Mixed Methods Research	C&PC : Ch. 1; Additional readings	
09/10/24	3: The Foundations of Mixed Methods Research	C&PC : Ch. 2; P : Ch. 14; Additional readings	Reflection Paper #1 -- <i>What is your plan for your class project?</i>
09/17/24	4: Choosing a Core Mixed Methods Design & the FRAIM	C&PC : Ch. 3; P : Ch. 1 & 2; Additional readings	
09/24/24	5: Choosing a Mixed Methods Design & the FRAIM (cont.)	C&PC : Ch. 3; P : Ch. 1 & 2; Additional readings	Quiz 1
10/01/24	6: Using a Complex Application of Core Mixed Methods Designs	C&PC : Ch. 4; Additional readings	Reflection Paper #2 -- <i>What is your worldview for conducting mixed methods research?</i>
10/08/24	7: Introducing Mixed Methods Studies	C&PC : Ch. 5; Additional readings	
10/15/24	8: Sources & Sampling in Mixed Methods Research	P : Ch.3 & 4; Additional readings	Major Project Draft
10/22/24	9: Collecting Data in Mixed Methods Research (I)	P : Ch. 5 & 6; C&PC : Ch.6	Reflection Paper #3 -- <i>What value do you see added by the use of a mixed methods approach?</i>
10/29/24	10: Collecting Data in Mixed Methods Research (II)	P : Ch. 7, 8, & 9; Additional readings	Quiz 2
11/05/24	11: Analyzing and Interpreting Data in Mixed Methods Research	P : Ch. 10; C&PC : Ch.7; Additional readings	
11/12/24	12: Writing and Evaluating Mixed Methods Research	C&PC : Ch. 8; P : Ch. 11; Additional readings	Article Classifications and Critiques
11/19/24	13: Advances and Ethics in Mixed Methods Research	C&PC : Ch. 9; P : Ch. 12, & 13; Additional readings	Quiz 3
12/03/24	14: Student Presentations	C&PC : Ch. 9; P : Ch. 12, & 13; Additional readings	Major Project Paper

* **C&PC** = Creswell & Plano-Clark; **P** = Plowright.

A Note About Written Reports:

Cite all references using APA style format. APA (American Psychological Association) has a reference manual available at the University of Florida Library and they have information about writing and references on their website, which is <http://www.apa.org/>. The format to be used for papers is double-spacing; one-inch margins, and typed in 12-point font, unless otherwise noted.

A consistent style is used for grading written papers. Primarily, show that you have learned and are able to apply the course material through your writing. In grading, the instructor looks for student's cognitive understanding and application of theories, principles, concepts, ideas, and approaches that have been covered in readings and the course. More detailed rubrics are included in the descriptions of each assignment.

Attendance:

Given the importance of class discussion and participation, it is not possible for a student to perform satisfactorily in the course without regularly contributing to the planned activities and assignments. Students are **required** to be active in the course throughout the semester. Only documented doctor's excuses or UF-approved activities will be excused.

Lateness Policy:

A *10% per day* deduction will be assessed for assignments turned in late. Work more than a week late will *not* be accepted. This policy will be strictly enforced. All assignment deadlines are *critical* for your individual success in this course and the success of the course overall. If you feel that you will be unable to meet these deadlines, you *must* communicate this to the course instructor *at least one day before the assignment or discussion posting is due.*

Grades and Grade Points

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Absences and Make-Up Work

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

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

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/>.

Academic Honesty

“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 (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) 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.

Campus Helping 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/Default.aspx>, 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**, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
<http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.
- Academic Resources
 - **E-learning technical support**, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learningsupport@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.
 - **Career Resource Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.
<http://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.
<http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.
 - **Writing Studio**, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

Services for Students with Disabilities

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.

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Disclaimer About Syllabus:

Serious effort and consideration were used in formulating the syllabus presented by the instructor. While viewed as an educational contract between the instructor and student, unforeseen events may cause changes to the scheduling of assignments, readings, etc. The instructor reserves the right to make any changes deemed necessary to best fulfill the course objectives. Students registered for this course will be made aware of any changes in a timely fashion using reasonable means. This disclaimer does not abrogate any student rights as described by University rules and regulations.