INR 4903H Directed Readings I

Fall 2021 Syllabus

Instructor Contact

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Course Information

Course Name	Directed Readings I
Course ID & Section	INR 4903H
Credit Hours	3 credit hours
Semester/Year	Fall 2021
Class meeting time & location	Weekly meetings TBD via Zoom or phone

Course Description

The student will work to develop an honors thesis proposal, including a literature review, pertaining to their research interest.

Course Objectives

- Objective One: gain competency in the relevant literature and concepts
- Objective Two: develop research skills and
- Objective Three: learn how to summarize thoughts and develop communication writing skills via writing a thesis proposal, including a synthetic literature review.

Course Materials

Following consultation with the instructor, the student will assemble a list of readings related to the proposed topic of study that will assist with crafting the thesis proposal. With the instructors' approval, the student will read and take notes over the readings to assist with proposal writing.

Course Requirements and Grade Table

A	B	C	D	
Assignments	**% of Final Grade**	**Assignment Scores***	**Component Score = column B x column C**	**Due Date**
Syllabus Quiz	0			First week of the semester
Thesis proposal	100%			Friday, November 12, 11:59 PM
Total	100%		**Add each of your component scores to get your anticipated final grade**	

* Add grades for each type of assignment and divide by the number of grades for this task, except for discussion post grades which should be added.

Very Important Note: For the purposes of determining your final course grade, take the grades for particular assignments shown in Webcourses/Canvas and plug them into the grade table above and do the calculations accordingly. If assignments are not yet completed and you are trying to estimate your current course grade during the semester, divide your total for column D by the percentage of the final grade that has been completed. For example, if you have done everything except Annotated Bibliography 3, divide your total for column D by 65 since you have only completed the assignments equal to 65% of your course grade.

Grading Scale

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

Academic Assignments

Thesis proposal: Students will read the approved books, academic articles, and similar materials to conduct background research that will be synthesized and discussed in the thesis research proposal that will lay out the research and writing to be conducted in depth in future semesters. That proposal should ideally be between 20 to 25 pages in length.

Your proposal should include: "a brief introduction, which will define the thesis topic and explain the purpose of the thesis; a literature review that outlines the most relevant readings and theories which pertain to the thesis topic; a methodology section, which should include the research questions, hypotheses, participants, materials, and procedures; a bibliography or reference list. Most of the sources should be from peer reviewed articles or books. As with other academic papers, the use of internet sources should be limited."[1]

Unless otherwise directed by the Honors College guidance, please use the Chicago citation style and 1-inch margins, double-spacing with 11-point font. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the discussion of cheating and plagiarism in this

[1] Taken from: https://honors.ucf.edu/thesis-proposal-examples-2/

syllabus before starting on this assignment. This assignment will be graded in accord with the following distribution of credit.

Mechanics of writing	20%
Literature Review	40%
Methodological discussion	15%
Proper documentation and citation	20%
Organization of paper	5%
	100%

Typically, most students lose points on papers for me because of mechanical flaws in their writing (grammar, punctuation, unclearly worded sentences, etc.). Poor performance in this regard could lower your paper grade by as much as 20 points. Also, students have a tendency to lose points for failing to use evidence to support their arguments by appropriately citing scholarly sources, so you should consult the section below on academic dishonesty for details on how to avoid plagiarism. For example, I deduct one point for missing words or marks of punctuation, two points for sentence fragments or run-on sentences and five points for each failure to appropriately cite sources. Thus, you should take steps to minimize those kinds of flaws in your writing, including becoming familiar with Chicago style using the literacy tutorial referenced in the Academic Honesty section below. Hopefully, these standards will help you to develop sound writing skills that will help you not only when applying for jobs or further educational opportunities, but once you secure those opportunities.

Additional procedural guidance:

In accordance with the Honors College expectations, the student should participate in the Honors Undergraduate Thesis orientation and one additional workshop. Orientation dates will be sent to student's Knights email account. Also, the student should select, in consultation with the thesis chair, at least one additional thesis committee member. No later than six weeks before the end of the semester, the committee should be formed, the names of additional committee members should be sent to the Office of Honors Research. The thesis proposal should be sent to the thesis committee by Friday, November 12, which is three weeks before classes end.

The student will Submit the thesis proposal with the signed Thesis Proposal Cover Page to the Office of Honors Research by the appropriate deadline. Also, the student should register for Honors Thesis (4970H for 3 credit hours) or, if the proposal will not be completed in time, the student should register for Directed Readings II (4904H for 3 credit hours). Students will use the HUT Course Registration form, which can be obtained from the Office of Honors Research.

Academic Integrity

Do not cheat as this clearly violates the UCF Golden Rule Student Handbook and violates several aspects of the UCF Creed. Unless otherwise specified by the instructor, your work must be your own. Cheating can come in different forms, including plagiarism. Plagiarism in its most blatant form is when writers use other people's words or ideas and do not give them credit. Do not copy or use papers or sections of papers from the web or other sources without proper attribution.

Please use Chicago's style for your bibliographies. If I determine that there has been an instance of unambiguous academic dishonesty in the course, I will inform you of my concern and report the violation to Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Particular assignments on which unambiguous cheating occurs will be penalized with an F (0 points).

Academic Support Services

Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) (Phillips Hall, Room 113/ (407) 823-5130): If you have trouble succeeding in this class and comprehending the material, you might benefit from contacting this office for assistance with improving your study skills.

UCF Counseling Center (Building #27/ (407) 823-2811): Students experiencing challenges, including, but by no means limited to stress, anxiety, or depression, that are hindering their ability to be the best they can be should contact this office for help. There is absolutely no shame in getting help so that you can attempt to live up to your true potential.

Course Accessibility Statement: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Accessibility Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center (UWC) offers writing support to UCF students from first-year to graduate in every discipline. Trained peer consultants provide help at every stage of the writing process, including understanding assignments, researching, drafting, revising, incorporating sources, and learning to proofread and edit. The UWC's purpose is not merely to fix papers or to make better writers, but to teach writers' strategies to navigate complex situations for writing, both in and outside the University. Consultations

are available for individuals and small groups. To make the best use of the UWC, visit far enough before your due dates to allow yourself time to revise after your consultation, browse the writing resources on our website, and arrange a regular weekly appointment if you'd like long-term help. You may schedule a 45-minute appointment by phone or by using the TutorTrac scheduler on our website; walk-in consultations are also available. The main location is in Colbourn 105 with satellite locations in the Main Library, Rosen Library & Online. They can be reached at 407-823-2197 or http://uwc.cah.ucf.edu/. In addition, the UWC seeks graduate and undergraduate tutors from all majors; contact the UWC to learn more about peer writing consulting and ENC 4275/5276: Theory & Practice of Tutoring Writing, our three-credit tutor-education course.

Campus Safety Statement for Students in Online-Only Courses

Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.

- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <https://my.ucf.edu> and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.

Deployed Active-Duty Military Students

Students who are deployed active-duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

Course Schedule

Assignments	Due
Course Participation Quiz	Friday, August 27, 11:59 PM
Meetings	We will plan to meet once each week by Zoom
Thesis proposal deadline	Friday, November 12, at 11:59 PM

Important Note: All faculty members are required by UCF to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, you should complete a graded syllabus quiz that is due during the first week of classes. Failure to do so could result in a zero for the assignment and a delay in the disbursement of any financial aid (this is a new UCF policy and beyond my control). To do this task, go to the myUCF portal (https://my.ucf.edu)

Missed or late assignment policy or religious holidays: Missed assignments will be penalized 5% per day unless a valid and compelling explanation is offered. Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy: 5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALJan19.pdf (ucf.edu)

Make-Up Assignments for Authorized University Events or Co-curricular Activities

Students who represent the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied. For more information, see the UCF policy at https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.pdf

Other important Dates:

Event	Date for C Term
Drop/ Add deadline	Friday, August 27, 2021 11:59 PM
Withdrawal deadline	Friday, October 29, 2021 11:59 PM