LIT 6934: Digital Research Methods

I. General Information

Class Meetings

- Fall 2025
- Tuesday 12:50pm to 3:50pm

Instructor

- Victor Del Hierro
- Turlington 4340
- Office Hours Monday 2:00-3:30pm and Thursdays 1:00-2:30pm
- vdelhierro@ufl.edu

Course Description

This course will be a broad survey of Digital Research Methods in Writing Studies. The course will examine current discussions in Writing Studies on the continually evolving field of digital rhetoric and writing researching including scholarship from related fields in digital humanities and user experience design. Throughout the semester, students will produce ideas and deliverables related to all facets of research including understanding and implementing theories of conducting research and developing an understanding of the research process from start to finish. Over the course of the semester, students will learn about the various types of research done in Writing Studies. Students in the course will spend time designing a research project of their choosing while learning about and experimenting with different research approaches.

Course Goals

The primary goals of the course are to:
- Understand what research methods are
- How to design a research study
- What it means to engage in digital research methods
- Be able to identify research instruments in a study

Ultimately this course is about helping students become better researchers through the lens of digital research tools, methods, and methodologies.

Required Readings and Works

- Materials and Supplies Fees: n/a
- Sites of Translations by Laura Gonzales

- Methods and Methodologies for Research in Digital Writing and Rhetoric [Volume 1](#) and [Volume 2](#) Ed. Crystal VanKooten and Victor Del Hierro
- Additional items will be available through Canvas or course reserves.

II. Graded Work

Overview:
Leading Class Discussion (15%)
Project Proposal (15%)
Midterm (35%)
Final Project (35%)

Description of Graded Work

I. Leading Class Discussion
Due: Scheduled during the semester
Deliverable: Just attend class and participate
Point total: 150 points

II. Project Proposal
Due: Throughout the semester
Deliverable: In class quiz on Canvas
Point total: 150 Points

III. Midterm – Prospectus Draft
Due: After Spring Break
Deliverable: Word document, 12pt. font, Times New Roman or Cambria, 5-10 pages double spaced, 1-inch margins, uploaded to Canvas.
Point total: 350 Points

IV. Final – Methods and Methodology Term Paper
Due: Week 16
Deliverable: Word document, 12 pt. font, Times New Roman or Cambria, 5-10 pages, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, uploaded to Assignments in Canvas
Final Paper: 350 Points

Grading Scale

For information on how UF assigns grade points, visit: https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/

A	94 – 100%		C	74 – 76%
A-	90 – 93%		C-	70 – 73%

B+	87 – 89%		D+	67 – 69%
B	84 – 86%		D	64 – 66%
B-	80 – 83%		D-	60 – 63%
C+	77 – 79%		E	<60

III. Weekly Schedule

Week 1 – No Class, semester starts on Thursday
Week 2 – Unit 0: Welcome: What does digital research methods offer us?
Week 3 – Unit 0: Researcher Positionality and Methodologies
Week 4 – Unit 1: Defining (Digital) Research Methods
Week 5 – Unit 1: Different Facets of Digital Research
Week 6 – Unit 2: Researching with Digital Instruments (Video)
Week 7 – Unit 2: Researching with Digital Instruments (Sound)
Week 8 – Unit 3: Researching in Digital Spaces (Websites and Apps)
Week 9 – Unit 3: Researching in Digital Spaces (Social Media)
Week 10 – Unit 4: Digital Data Collection and Analysis (Storymaps)
Week 11 – Unit 4: Digital Data Collection and Analysis (User Experience)
Week 12 – Unit 5: Digital Preservation (Archives)
Week 13 – Conference Week: Meet with Professor
Week 14 – Peer Review Week
Week 15 – Thanksgiving Break
Week 16 – Presentations
Week 17 – Finals Week

VI. Required Policies

Course Policies (Borrowed from Dr. Marsha Bryant)

As this is a graduate seminar, I'll keep it short & simple:
1. We need you to be present in class each week. (Contact me if there is an issue.)
2. We need your weekly participation.
3. You need to submit all assignments, including digital participation.
4. You should make an appointment to discuss your seminar/conference paper with me either before or after you've received feedback on your Conference Paper Proposal.

5. Paper Format for Proposal & Papers: Please use a 12 point font, 1-inch margins, and double spacing. Thanks.
6. Social Media Policy. Let us be respectful of one another on social media as well as in our course communications. I often post about my teaching, and it's always something positive. I never describe or name my students on social media. On my blog I only share (and credit) student's work by permission. Whether in person or online, we are a community.
7. If you plan on using artificial intelligence in your class work, please make sure you disclose this information on your assignment. I do not condone the use of a.i. but I leave the decision to you.

UF POLICIES
1. You must complete all assignments to receive credit for this course.
2. UF's policy on Harassment: UF provides an educational and working environment that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment for its students, staff, and faculty. Read the policy here.
3. Academic Honesty and Definition of Plagiarism. Plagiarism violates the Student Honor Code and requires reporting to the Dean of Students. All students must abide by the Student Honor Code.
4. 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. (DRC phone # is 352-392-8565.)
5. Students who face difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help may call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center: (352) 392-1575.
6. For information on UF Grading policies, see: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx
7. Course Evaluations. Toward the end of the semester, you will receive email messages asking you to go online and evaluate this course: https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/Default.aspx

Attendance Policy
Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/. 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.

UF Evaluations Process

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/.

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.

Counseling and Wellness Center

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

The Writing Studio

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/ or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

In-Class Recordings

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.