

# MMC 6929, Communication Colloquium

## Fall 2024 Syllabus

Monday 3-4 Period (9:35 am-11:30 am)  
Weimer 1092

### Instructor

Robyn Goodman, Ph.D.

### Contact

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352-392-2704

### Office Location & Hours

Weimer Hall 2022

## General Information

### Course Description

Catalog description: "Provides common grounding in subjects across doctoral students' research approaches. Students enroll in the fall during the first year."

This course will be a mixture of lecture, discussions, and guest speakers. The topics listed below are subject to change based on your input. However, you will be asked to coordinate and invite some of the guest speakers to help you get to know faculty and their areas of expertise and to get you connected. This class strives to include multiple and diverse perspectives from a variety of stakeholders to inform your appreciation for differing viewpoints in your research, teaching and overall academic career.

## Expectations

### Attendance

**Attendance is mandatory.** On the weeks that readings are assigned, it is expected that you will have read them by class time and be ready to discuss them.

### Grading

The class is graded S/U. A satisfactory grade requires attendance, active participation in discussions, and meeting expectations for the following activities. If absences are not excused under UF's attendance policy, or if you don't participate or complete the activities below as scheduled, a grade of "U" will be assigned. It will then be necessary for you to complete this course next fall semester to remove the unsatisfactory.

- **Guest Speaker Planning:** This will be your chance to get to know some faculty, veteran doc students, and alumni by inviting them to speak in class. You will be assigned a session and general topic for which you will find guest speakers. I'm happy to make suggestions of faculty or students to invite, but this is also an opportunity for you to learn more about your colleagues. You will choose the format of the class: debate, panel, Q&A, or some combination of those. You decide what would be most helpful to you. Make sure you:

- are certain they are coming and coordinate the technology and time of their talk,
  - ask for the speakers' CVs so that you can appropriately introduce them; and
  - send them a letter thanking them after they have spoken in class.
- **Degree Plan:** Before **October 17**, you will be required to have met with your advisor to draft your proposed degree plan, your IDP, and to have discussed and mapped out a research plan. We'll then meet to discuss it on **October 17** or **October 24**. The tentative degree plan and IDP must be signed by your advisor (or at least your advisor must verify that you have met to discuss what is proposed in the degree plan if still tentative). This part is a major part of your grade. Please don't forget to do it.
  - **Research Goals:** Because ours is a research institution, you need to set goals for yourself that will help ensure your job search and future academic success. Therefore, also due before your meeting is a well-thought-out, honest, and realistic statement of research goals—approximately one page. This statement must answer:
    - Where do you plan to be at the end of your studies at UF?
    - How many research papers/creative works do you plan to have presented AND published by the time you are searching for an academic position?
    - Where do you plan to present or publish them?
    - What will be your research area?
    - Do you have any papers you have out for review now or are planning to send this year?

Research goals also will be shared with your advisor as a benchmark to use for your annual student evaluations. Setting and achieving ambitious scholarship goals is an important component of earning satisfactory annual evaluations in the program.

- **IDP:** It is common in academic to use an IDP (individual development plan). In fact, many federal granting agencies require doctoral students' IDPs if they are working on the grant. UF requires an IDP of all doctoral students. The first year requires more work and answering questions. Subsequent years are more re-evaluation and updates.
- **Plagiarism training:** Because plagiarism is such a serious issue, you will be doing training and received certification on the issue. You must pass the certification.

### Academic Associations

I strongly encourage you to become a student member of the appropriate academic organizations in your particular area (e.g., [AAA](#), [ACH](#), [AJHA](#), [BEA](#), [IPRRC](#), etc.) Overall, it's a smart idea to become a student member of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication ([AEJMC](#)). AEJMC is a comprehensive organization in our field and is an important outlet for much of our CJC research. Likewise, [ICA](#) and [NCA](#) are comprehensive communication organizations with many specific divisions and interest groups that may match your interests. We'll talk more about associations as we discuss related topics throughout the semester. I also encourage you to reserve some of your funding for conference registration and travel to supplement what is available via college and university support.

### Academic Honesty

All 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-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 me directly.

## Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. You will be notified by email when the evaluation period opens, and you can complete evaluations through the link in the email you receive from GatorEvals, in the Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results will be available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## Course Materials

### Required Textbook

Foss, K. A. (Ed.). (2020). *The Graduate Student Guidebook: From Orientation to Tenure Track*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

### Required Materials

- Weekly readings and resources will be posted on Canvas and may be added as we go to accommodate speaker offerings or changes in the schedule. I'll make sure to give you adequate advanced notice if required readings are added or changed.
- [CJC Doctoral Handbook](#)
- [UF Graduate Student Handbook](#)
- [CJC Doctoral Forms and Guidelines](#)

## Preliminary Course Schedule

*Topics and readings are subject to change, especially to accommodate current events and guest speaker schedules. Additional resources may be added as we go.*

Week	Topics	People	Resources/Notes
August 26	Welcome and introduction	Goodman	Syllabus
	Diverse perspectives and academia	All	<a href="#">The importance of diverse perspectives and how to foster them</a> <a href="#">Everyone is talking about belonging. What does it really mean?</a> <a href="#">DEI—The case for common ground</a>

Week	Topics	People	Resources/Notes
September 2		Labor Day, No classes	
September 9	How to be a doc student Degree planning The research degree IDP Timelines Dissertation options Points to ponder	Goodman/Dukes	CJC Doctoral Handbook  <a href="#">UF Graduate Student Handbook (they haven't uploaded an update yet)</a>  <a href="#">CJC Doctoral Forms and Guidelines</a>  <a href="#">Doctoral Degree Plan</a>  <i>Guidebook: Introduction. Chapters 1 &amp; 2</i>
September 16	Graduate student decisions  Imagine PhD Interim advisor How to Break Up Notetaking Organization Workflow	Student panel for 1/2	Guidebook, CH 3: "Graduate Student Decisions."
September 23	Methods and approaches (ex: quantitative, qualitative, historical, legal, feminist, critical)	Faculty Panel	
September 30	Research teams, labs, collaborations, authorship  Wellness	Faculty panel	TBD
October 7	Library resources, literature reviews	April Hines TBD	<a href="https://guides.uflib.ufl.edu">https://guides.uflib.ufl.edu</a> <a href="https://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/mascommgrad">https://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/mascommgrad</a>
October 14	Professional options	TBD	See Imagine PhD

Week	Topics	People	Resources/Notes
			DUE: Draft your degree plan, IDP, and research statement before meeting.
<b>Must meet with your advisor and prepare draft degree plan with research statement and IDP before October 21 meeting with Goodman</b>			
October 21	Individual degree plan/research agenda meetings	Goodman	
October 28	Assistantships	Chairs/Students	<i>Guidebook</i> , CH 4: Getting the Most Out of Your Graduate Assistantship <b>Plagiarism training due</b>
November 4	Conference presentations and posters	Student/faculty panel	<i>Guidebook</i> : CH 6: "Making Sense of (and Making the Most of) Academic Conferences"  <a href="#">CJC at Major Conferences</a>
November 11	Academic writing and peer review	Faculty panel	<i>Guidebook</i> , CH 7: Publishing as a Graduate Student
November 18	Qualifying exams	Faculty/student panel	<a href="#">Qualifying Exam Policy</a> Dissertation Policy (see handbook) Three-article Option Dissertation Policy (see handbook)
November 25	Thanksgiving week		
December 5	What I wish I knew	Student panel	

## Seeking Help

### Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect 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.

### Campus Resources

#### Health and Wellness

- **U Matter, We Care:** If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

- **Counseling and Wellness Center:** [counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](https://counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/), 352-392-1575
- **Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS):** Student Health Care Center, 352-392-1161
- **University Police Department:** <http://www.police.ufl.edu/> 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies)

#### Academic Resources

- **E-learning Technical Support,** 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>
- **Library Support,** <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>, offers various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.