

Developmental Seminar DEP 6059: Spring 2026



Humans sharing ideas. This is a device and ppt-free zone.

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<https://lifestorylab.psych.ufl.edu/>

Office hours: By appointment or after class, Weds, 1:40 – 3:00

Meeting time/place: Wednesdays, 12:50 – 1:40, PSY Room 129 (1 credit option)

All developmental students should be registered for 1 credit. If you contacted me in December to approve the 3-credit option, please stay after class first day to discuss.

Course site: We are using Canvas for posting announcements, course materials and handing in assignments. Go to <http://lss.at.ufl.edu/> Login with Gatorlink ID/password.

Course objective: The objective of this seminar is to provide an open forum to discuss, and share ideas/information, on a variety of professional development and substantive topics relevant to Developmental Psychology.

Course roundtable format: A “roundtable” is a form of discussion used in academia, business, and community orgs. Participants connect around a table with a common topic to share, discuss and debate. The idea is for all to have an equal seat at the table, an equal opportunity to participate (i.e., there is no person at the ‘head’ of a round table). The roundtable idea dates to 1155 ad and is often linked to King Arthur’s wish to equally honor his group of knights and seek their joint counsel.

- Each week we have a student facilitator. Some weeks there are materials to look at before class, materials to hand in at site, or a roundtable guest who joins us.

Requirements/evaluation (100 points)

The 1 credit option includes the following:

1. **Participation (20 points).** Attend each week having read any supporting materials and ready to participate, share ideas and connect with others. Okay to miss one week, with Instructor's pre-approved permission. Absences after that will affect your grade.
2. **Assignments (80 points).** All assignments are designed to help students prepare for lively participation in roundtables. Hand in any written assignments **on the respective Tuesday noon on CANVAS** (i.e., due the day before our Wednesday class in which that topic will be discussed).
 - a. **Academic Life Story (20 points).** See materials and instructions on site. Hand in your Academic Life Story at course site Tuesday by noon before the Wed you will present. Come to class prepared to share it with others, ask questions about other's academic life path.
 - b. **Facilitating the Roundtable (20 points).** In combination with the Instructor, facilitate the roundtable once during the semester. See your assigned week below. Hand in your three (or more) questions at course site Tuesday by noon on day before you are facilitator. Responsibilities of the facilitator:
 - i. Arrive early to help with classroom set-up, stay after class
 - ii. Generate an opening question to get discussion started
 - iii. Generate two additional questions, use as needed, to spur discussion
 - iv. Help the group stay focused/engaged in topic across the period
 - v. Feel free to contact Susan if you have other ideas to enliven your session or want to invite roundtable guest (if none already listed).
 - c. **If You're Reading This, www.ifyourereadingthis.org (20 points)**

UF has a student-led chapter of the national organization *IfYoureReadingThis*. The mission is to reduce stigma about mental health by creating a platform where students, faculty, and community members share open letters of support. These letters remind readers that others care and that they are not alone in facing stress or having concerns. Letters may help other students who are silently struggling with issues that others also face.

The assignment is to visit that site and then write a letter. Hand that in through the course site Tuesday by noon before our **Thriving in Grad School** class. Come to class prepared to share your experiences, tips and ideas on maintaining good mental health while in grad school. If you want (totally up to you!), you can also upload your letter to the Florida Chapter, IfYoureReadingThis site <https://www.ifyourereadingthis.org/florida>

Letter format and content guide:

- Begin with the phrase: “If you’re reading this...”.
- Aim for ~1 page in length, conversational in tone.
- Include a message of encouragement, and/or
- A personal anecdote or lesson learned, and/or
- Reflections on resilience, coping strategies/habits that support well-being.

d. Poster Day (20 points). Each student will present a poster in the session.

Poster from any time in the last year is best but if need to, older one is ok. Half of the class will present while the other half acts as audience, with great and challenging questions for the poster presenters. See poster presenter schedule below. Upload your poster to course site Tuesday by noon the day before our poster session.

Academic and Device Policies and Resources

Cell phone/other device use: Phones, laptops and other devices are to be completely stored away for the entire course period. Please consult Instructor if you need accommodation (e.g., due to medical/family care).

UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see: <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabuspolicy-links/>

Week-by-week Roundtable Topics

Week 1: Jan 14 – Intro and organizational

Course set-up, evaluation. Roundtable format: Room set up. Help! Check site for all materials listed in this syllabus.

Academic life stories for next two weeks. Instructions...

Facilitator: Susan Bluck

Week 2 & 3: Jan 21 & 28 – (Mini) Life Stories: My Identity as a Researcher-Educator

Materials: Your life story instructions. Susan’s academic life story (optional reading)

Hand in: your story on course site, Tuesday by noon before day you will tell it.

Jan 21 Six life stories – Alayna, Kiana, Yongyong, Chunche, Sanghee, Sevval

Jan 28 Six life stories – Kylie, Niti, Ariana, Stephanie, Jorja, Tamun

Facilitator: Susan Bluck

Week 4: Feb 4 – Devices. Divisive?

Materials: Can College Students Stand to Ditch Their Phones for an Hour or So?

Facilitator: Student

Roundtable guest: TBA

Week 5: Feb 11 – Post doc opportunities and experiences

Materials. Roundtable guests' CVs

Facilitator. Student

Roundtable guests: Drs. Jamie Donenfeld (Postdoc; Scott) & Arash Mirifar (Postdoc; Keil)

Week 6: February 18 – International Perspectives/Experiences

Facilitator. Student

Roundtable guest: Dr. Shanting Chen

Week 7: February 25 – Be the change you want to see.

Pursuing meaningful service, relevant to your interest, in the dept., profession, community.

Materials. Visit Before I Die Walls, <https://www.candychang.com/beforeidie/>

Facilitator. Student

Week 8: March 4 – Sustainability at Work

Facilitator. Student

Roundtable guest: Dr. Ron Chandler

Week 9: March 11 – Teaching experiences and tips

Facilitator. Student

Roundtable guest: Dr. Jamie Newland, UF Psychology. Graduate of DEV Area.

Week 10: Spring Break

Week 11: March 25 – Thriving in Grad School

Materials. If You're Reading This, www.ifyourereadingthis.org (Ambassador: Astha Mehta)

Hand in. Your letter on course site, Tuesday by noon before day of class discussion.

Facilitator. Student

Week 12: April 1 – Academic Job Interviews

Materials: Job interview questions, R1 and Liberal Arts College

Facilitator/Interviewers & Interviewees: Students

Roundtable guest: Dr. Jose Martinez, Social Area New Faculty,
<https://sites.google.com/view/joseleonmartinez/home>

Week 13: April 8 – Working in Industry/Industry Collaboration

Facilitator. Student

Roundtable guest: Dr. Nicole Gravina, Associate Professor, Behavioral Analysis
<https://people.clas.ufl.edu/ngravina/>

Week 14: April 15 - Professional Potpourri

Those small but important questions - Should I do a journal review? How do I ask questions to guest speakers? When/how do I form collaborations at UF and outside?

Facilitator. Student

Week 15: April 22 – DEV Research Showcase: Poster Day

Materials. Bring your poster ready to display. Upload poster ppt to course site by noon the day before presenting.

While Group A presents, Group B is ‘audience.’ Then we switch.

Group A Presents 12:50 – 1:15.

Group B Presents 1:15 – 1:40.

Facilitator. Student

Guests: Invite any undergrads from your lab! Particularly invite any students or faculty who are authors on your poster to attend.