Dear colleagues,

I am submitting a request to develop a new course on terrorism and space in Geography. I addressed all the requests and suggestions formulated by College Approver Joseph Spillane on February 25th and March 7th 2021.

- Course prerequisite: any course with a GIS prefix (or departmental permission)
- Grading scale goes to 100 instead of 100+

The goal of this new course is to critically discuss the dual concerns for geography as an influence on and a source of terrorism. After providing a theoretical foundation, the course will examine how a spatial approach can contribute to better understand the diffusion of terrorist organizations across the world, with a particular focus on Africa.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Olivier Walther

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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
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<td>CLAS - Geography 16220000</td>
<td>Jane Southworth</td>
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| College            | Recycled          | CLAS - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences| Joseph Spillane | The College Curriculum Committee recycles this request, with the following changes needed: Course description needs to be telegraphed.  
• Explain variable credit. Likely meant to be 4 only?  
• Prereq is not programmable. Suggestion: specify specific courses that use GIS and have department waive in rest of students.  
• Itemize course objectives.  
• Include a grading scale.  
• Letter from UF Online if meant to be a UF online course. Clarify delivery method.  
• Suggestion: make connection between workshops and assessments to justify lab code. | 2/25/2021 |
|                    |                   |                                            |                 | No document changes                                                                                                                                                     |          |
| Department         | Approved          | CLAS - Geography 16220000                  | Jane Southworth |                                                                                                                                                                         | 3/19/2021|
| Syllabus-GEO6938-terrorism-geography-2021.pdf |                   |                                            |                 |                                                                                                                                                                         | 3/19/2021|
| College            | Conditionally     | CLAS - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences| Joseph Spillane | The College Curriculum Committee conditionally approves this request, with the following notes: Suggestion: Clarify how a student could earn extra credit (since Grading Scale goes to 100+). Suggestions to fix prereq based on intention:  
GIS 3043 or GEO 3600 or GIS 4113 or GEO 4169  
GIS 3043 & GEO 3600 & (GIS 4113 or GEO 4169) | 4/7/2021  |
<p>|                    | Approved          |                                            |                 | No document changes                                                                                                                                                     |          |
|                    |                   |                                            |                 | No document changes                                                                                                                                                     |          |
| College            | Approved          | CLAS - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences| Joseph Spillane |                                                                                                                                                                         | 4/7/2021  |
|                    |                   |                                            |                 | No document changes                                                                                                                                                     |          |
| University Curriculum Committee | Pending | PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC) |                 |                                                                                                                                                                         | 4/7/2021  |</p>
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Request: GEO 4XXXC – Terrorism and Space

Description of request:

Dear colleagues,

I am submitting a request to develop a new course on terrorism and space in Geography. I addressed all the requests and suggestions formulated by College Approver Joseph Spillane on February 25th and March 7th 2021.

- Course prerequisite: any course with a GIS prefix (or departmental permission)
- Grading scale goes to 100 instead of 100+

The goal of this new course is to critically discuss the dual concerns for geography as an influence on and a source of terrorism. After providing a theoretical foundation, the course will examine how a spatial approach can contribute to better understand the diffusion of terrorist organizations across the world, with a particular focus on Africa.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Olivier Walther

Submitter: Olivier Walther owalther@ufl.edu
Created: 4/7/2021 11:39:45 AM
Form version: 7

Responses

Recommended Prefix

Enter the three letter code indicating placement of course within the discipline (e.g., POS, ATR, ENC). Note that for new course proposals, the State Common Numbering System (SCNS) may assign a different prefix.

Response:
GEO

Course Level

Select the one digit code preceding the course number that indicates the course level at which the course is taught (e.g., 1=freshman, 2=sophomore, etc.).

Response:
4

Course Number

Enter the three digit code indicating the specific content of the course based on the SCNS taxonomy and course equivalency profiles. For new course requests, this may be XXX until SCNS assigns an appropriate number.

Response:
XXX

Category of Instruction

Indicate whether the course is introductory, intermediate or advanced. Introductory courses are those that require
no prerequisites and are general in nature. Intermediate courses require some prior preparation in a related area. Advanced courses require specific competencies or knowledge relevant to the topic prior to enrollment.

Response:
Advanced

• 1000 level = Introductory undergraduate
• 2000 level = Introductory undergraduate
• 3000 level = Intermediate undergraduate
• 4000 level = Advanced undergraduate
• 5000 level = Introductory graduate
• 6000 level = Intermediate graduate
• 7000 level = Advanced graduate
• 4000/5000 = Joint undergraduate/graduate
• 4000/6000 = Joint undergraduate/graduate

*Joint undergraduate/graduate courses must be approved by the UCC and the Graduate Council)

Lab Code
Enter the lab code to indicate whether the course is lecture only (None), lab only (L), or a combined lecture and lab (C).

Response:
C

Course Title
Enter the title of the course as it should appear in the Academic Catalog. There is a 100 character limit for course titles.

Response:
Terrorism and Space

Transcript Title
Enter the title that will appear in the transcript and the schedule of courses. Note that this must be limited to 30 characters (including spaces and punctuation).

Response:
Terrorism and Space

Degree Type
Select the type of degree program for which this course is intended.

Response:
Baccalaureate

Delivery Method(s)
Indicate all platforms through which the course is currently planned to be delivered.

Response:
On-Campus

Co-Listing
Will this course be jointly taught to undergraduate, graduate, and/or professional students?

Response:
No

Effective Term
Select the requested term that the course will first be offered. Selecting "Earliest" will allow the course to be active in the earliest term after SCNS approval. If a specific term and year are selected, this should reflect the department's best projection. Courses cannot be implemented retroactively, and therefore the actual effective term cannot be prior to SCNS approval, which must be obtained prior to the first day of classes for the effective term. SCNS approval typically requires 2 to 6 weeks after approval of the course at UF.

Response:
Earliest Available

Effective Year
Select the requested year that the course will first be offered. See preceding item for further information.

Response:
Earliest Available

Rotating Topic?
Select "Yes" if the course can have rotating (varying) topics. These course titles can vary by topic in the Schedule of Courses.

Response:
No

Repeatable Credit?
Select "Yes" if the course may be repeated for credit. If the course will also have rotating topics, be sure to indicate this in the question above.

Response:
No

Amount of Credit
Select the number of credits awarded to the student upon successful completion, or select "Variable" if the course will be offered with variable credit and then indicate the minimum and maximum credits per section. Note that credit hours are regulated by Rule 6A-10.033, FAC. If you select "Variable" for the amount of credit, additional fields will appear in which to indicate the minimum and maximum number of total credits.

Response:
4
S/U Only?
Select “Yes” if all students should be graded as S/U in the course. Note that each course must be entered into the UF curriculum inventory as either letter-graded or S/U. A course may not have both options. However, letter-graded courses allow students to take the course S/U with instructor permission.

Response:
No

Contact Type
Select the best option to describe course contact type. This selection determines whether base hours or headcount hours will be used to determine the total contact hours per credit hour. Note that the headcount hour options are for courses that involve contact between the student and the professor on an individual basis.

Response:
Regularly Scheduled

- Regularly Scheduled [base hr]
- Thesis/Dissertation Supervision [1.0 headcount hr]
- Directed Individual Studies [0.5 headcount hr]
- Supervision of Student Interns [0.8 headcount hr]
- Supervision of Teaching/Research [0.5 headcount hr]
- Supervision of Cooperative Education [0.8 headcount hr]

Contact the Office of Institutional Planning and Research (352-392-0456) with questions regarding contact type.

Weekly Contact Hours
Indicate the number of hours instructors will have contact with students each week on average throughout the duration of the course.

Response:
3

Course Description
Provide a brief narrative description of the course content. This description will be published in the Academic Catalog and is limited to 500 characters or less. See course description guidelines.

Response:
Critically discusses the dual concerns for geography as an influence on and a source of terrorism. Presents the origins of contemporary terrorism as well as the various motivations of ideologically-oriented, ethno-nationalist, and religious organizations. Examines how a spatial approach can contribute to better understand the diffusion of terrorist organizations across the world, with a particular focus on Africa.

Prerequisites
Indicate all requirements that must be satisfied prior to enrollment in the course. Prerequisites will be automatically checked for each student attempting to register for the course. The prerequisite will be published in the Academic Catalog and must be formulated so that it can be enforced in the registration system. Please note that upper division courses (i.e., intermediate or advanced level of instruction) must have proper prerequisites to target the appropriate audience for the course. Courses level 3000 and above must have a prerequisite. Please verify that any prerequisite courses listed are active courses.
Response:
Any course with a GIS prefix

Completing Prerequisites on UCC forms:

- Use "&" and "or" to conjoin multiple requirements; do not use commas, semicolons, etc.
- Use parentheses to specify groupings in multiple requirements.
- Specifying a course prerequisite (without specifying a grade) assumes the required passing grade is D-. In order to specify a different grade, include the grade in parentheses immediately after the course number. For example, "MAC 2311(B)" indicates that students are required to obtain a grade of B in Calculus I. MAC2311 by itself would only require a grade of D-.
- Specify all majors or minors included (if all majors in a college are acceptable the college code is sufficient).
- "Permission of department" is always an option so it should not be included in any prerequisite or co-requisite.
- If the course prerequisite should list a specific major and/or minor, please provide the plan code for that major/minor (e.g., undergraduate Chemistry major = CHY_BS, undergraduate Disabilities in Society minor = DIS_UMN)

Example: A grade of C in HSC 3502, passing grades in HSC 3057 or HSC 4558, and undergraduate PBH student should be written as follows: HSC 3502(C) & (HSC 3057 or HSC 4558) & UGPBH

Co-requisites
Indicate all requirements that must be taken concurrently with the course. Co-requisites are not checked by the registration system. If there are none please enter N/A.

Response:
N/A

Rationale and Placement in Curriculum
Explain the rationale for offering the course and its place in the curriculum.

Response:
The interest for the geography of terrorism has experienced a strong growth after 9/11 and the emergence of global Jihadist organizations such as Al-Qaeda or the Islamic State whose space of action and rhetoric contrasts with the local agenda of most terrorist organizations. This course will complement other courses offered by the Department of Geography in geospatial analysis (GIS3043, GIS4113) and spatial econometrics (GEO4169). By focusing on African terrorist organizations, the course will also complement the widely popular course Geography of Africa (GEO3600).

Course Objectives
Describe the core knowledge and skills that student should derive from the course. The objectives should be both observable and measurable.

Response:
A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:
- Apply theories of international terrorism and their spatial implications to understand terrorist organizations.
- Use geographically-referenced data to map the types of factors that fuel international terrorism.
- Apply spatial analysis to investigate the onset and diffusion of terrorism across time and space.
- Identify how terrorist organizations make use of places, distance, identity, territories and borders to conduct their attacks.
- Collect and analyze data using one of the most comprehensive databases on violent incidents in the world.
**Course Textbook(s) and/or Other Assigned Reading**

Enter the title, author(s) and publication date of textbooks and/or readings that will be assigned. Please provide specific examples to evaluate the course and identify required textbooks.

Response:


Assigned readings include:

OECD (2020). The Geography of Conflict in North and West Africa. Paris, OECD.

**Weekly Schedule of Topics**

Provide a projected weekly schedule of topics. This should have sufficient detail to evaluate how the course would meet current curricular needs and the extent to which it overlaps with existing courses at UF.

Response:

The course is organized as a series of lectures and workshops. Each conceptual topic introduced by the instructor is applied empirically by the students during 9 workshops. The data analyzed by the students during the workshops are used to write their mid-term and final papers.

Week 1
Course introduction (Sageman 2014)  
Defining terrorism (Hoffman 2017, 36-44)

Week 2  
The origins of contemporary terrorism (Hoffman 2017, chap. 2)  
The internationalization of terrorism (Hoffman 2017, chap 3)

Week 3  
State-sponsored terrorism (Hoffman 2017: 269-280)  
Workshop 1. Terrorism databases (Bowie and Schmid 2011)

Week 4  
The threat of Al Qaeda (Sciolino and Schmitt 2008)  
Workshop 2. Working with ACLED data (Raleigh et al. 2010)

Week 5  
Workshop 3. Working with ACLED data (ACLED 2020)

Week 6  
Religion and terrorism (Hoffman 2017, 83-100)  
Workshop 4. Mapping ACLED data (ACLED 2020)

Week 7  
Jihad and global Islam (Mandaville 2020, 328-349)  
Workshop 5. GIS and geospatial data (Medina and Hepner 2013, chap. 4)

Week 8  
The crime-terrorism nexus (Leuprecht et al. 2017)  
Guest lecture

Week 9  
The structure of terrorist networks (Krebs 2002)  
Dismantling terrorist networks (Price 2019)

Week 10  
Terrorism, space and place (Medina and Hepner 2011: 23-32)  
Workshop 6. Mapping places with ArcGIS (Medina et al. 2011)

Week 11  
Terrorism and distance: the near and far enemy (Hafez 2011)  
Workshop 7. Mapping point patterns with ArcGIS (Medina and Hepner 2008)

Week 12  
Terrorism and identity: Boko Haram (Curiel et al. 2020)  
Terrorism and identity: Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (Walther and Christopoulos 2015)

Week 13  
Terrorism and borders (D’Amato 2018)  

Week 14  
Guest lecture (Radil and Castan Pinos 2019)  
Workshop 9. Mapping the intensity and diffusion of violence with ArcGIS (OECD 2020: 61-76)

Week 15  
Course overview, questions and answers.
Grading Scheme
List the types of assessments, assignments and other activities that will be used to determine the course grade, and the percentage contribution from each. This list should have sufficient detail to evaluate the course rigor and grade integrity. Include details about the grading rubric and percentage breakdowns for determining grades. If participation and/or attendance are part of the students grade, please provide a rubric or details regarding how those items will be assessed.

Response:
Online attendance and participation: 10 points
Mid-term paper: 40 points
Final paper: 50 points
Total: 100 points

The major assessment components of this course include:

- Regular online attendance and participation. Students are expected to be at every online class meeting throughout the entire class session, and must not be reading other materials or use their cell phones. Participation entails responding to questions directed by the instructor and participating in peer-initiated discussions as well.
- Mid-term paper (2000-2200 words). In this descriptive paper, you will use the existing literature to discuss the origins, ideology, objectives, strategy and challenges of a terrorist organization of your choice. The selected organization must be active in 2020. For more information, see “How to write your mid-term paper” on Canvas.
- Final paper (4000-4200 words). This analytical paper will use the ACLED dataset to map and critically discuss the temporal and spatial evolution of an active terrorist organization in the world. For more information, see “How to write your final paper” on Canvas.

Grading scale

Instructor(s)
Enter the name of the planned instructor or instructors, or "to be determined" if instructors are not yet identified.

Response:
Dr. Olivier J. Walther

Attendance & Make-up
Please confirm that you have read and understand the University of Florida Attendance policy. A required statement related to class attendance, make-up exams and other work will be included in the syllabus and adhered to in the course. Courses may not have any policies which conflict with the University of Florida policy. The following statement may be used directly in the syllabus.

• 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

Response:
Yes

Accommodations
Please confirm that you have read and understand the University of Florida Accommodations policy. A statement related to accommodations for students with disabilities will be included in the syllabus and adhered to in the course. The following statement may be used directly in the syllabus:
• 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.

Response:
Yes

UF Grading Policies for assigning Grade Points
Please confirm that you have read and understand the University of Florida Grading policies. Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points is require to be included in the course syllabus. The following link may be used directly in the syllabus:

• https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Response:
Yes

Course Evaluation Policy
Course Evaluation Policy
Please confirm that you have read and understand the University of Florida Course Evaluation Policy. A statement related to course evaluations will be included in the syllabus. The following statement may be used directly in the syllabus:

• <span style="font-size:11.0pt">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&nbsp;https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/. 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&nbsp;&lt;a href="https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/" target="_blank">https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/</a>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at&nbsp;&lt;a href="https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/"&gt;https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/</a>.</span>

Response:
Yes
Instructor

Dr. Olivier J. Walther, Department of Geography, 3205 Turlington Hall, (352) 273-4739, owalther@ufl.edu. Office hours: by appointment.

Overview

Space is a fundamental dimension of terrorism. Geography not only provides the physical framework upon which terrorism attacks are conducted but also shapes the strategies of political actors. Space can act as a facilitating or constraining factor of terrorism as well as a source of dispute when states and terrorist organizations fight over territory. Space can also enable conflicts to spread geographically, possibly across borders, as in the Middle East and West Africa today. The interest for the geography of terrorism has experienced a strong growth after 9/11 and the emergence of global Jihadist organizations such as Al-Qaeda or the Islamic State whose space of action and rhetoric contrasts with the local agenda of most terrorist organizations.

Against this background, the objective of Terrorism and Space is to introduce you to the systemic study of international terrorism and its spatial implications. The course will critically discuss the dual concerns for geography as an influence on and a source of terrorism. We will first discuss the origins of contemporary terrorism as well as the various motivations of ideologically-oriented, ethno-nationalist, and religious organizations. After providing a theoretical foundation, we will examine how a spatial approach can contribute to better understand the diffusion of terrorist organizations across the world, with a particular focus on Africa.

Terrorism and Space puts a strong emphasis on using geographically-referenced data to map the types of factors that fuel international terrorism. Nine workshops will be organized to introduce you to spatial analysis, a rapidly growing field of research in geography and conflict studies. We will apply some of the most fundamental tools developed by spatial analysis, such as density or clustering, to investigate the onset and diffusion of terrorism across time and space. You will also be able to identify how terrorist organizations make use of places, distance, identity, territories and borders to conduct their attacks. Finally, you will be able to collect and analyze your own data using one of the most comprehensive databases on violent incidents in the world. These skills are in high demand in government jobs, international organizations, and in the private sector.
## Schedule and readings

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<tr>
<td>Jan 12, 14</td>
<td>Course introduction (Sageman 2014) <strong>ONLINE ONLY</strong></td>
<td>Defining terrorism (Hoffman 2017, 36-44)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 19, 21</td>
<td>The origins of contemporary terrorism (Hoffman 2017, chap. 2)</td>
<td>The internationalization of terrorism (Hoffman 2017, chap 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 26, 28</td>
<td>State-sponsored terrorism (Hoffman 2017: 269-280)</td>
<td>Workshop 1. Terrorism databases (Bowie and Schmid 2011)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 2, 4</td>
<td>The threat of Al Qaeda (Sciolino and Schmitt 2008)</td>
<td>Workshop 2. Working with ACLED data (Raleigh et al. 2010)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 23, 25</td>
<td>Jihad and global Islam (Mandaville 2020, 328-349)</td>
<td>Workshop 5. GIS and geospatial data (Medina and Hepner 2013, chap. 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2, 4</td>
<td>The crime-terrorism nexus (Leuprecht et al. 2017)</td>
<td>Guest lecture: Matthew Pflaum (UF) <em>Pastoralism Violence in the Sahel</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 9, 11</td>
<td>The structure of terrorist networks (Krebs 2002) <strong>Mid-term paper due March 9th at 11:59PM</strong></td>
<td>Dismantling terrorist networks (Price 2019)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 6, 8</td>
<td>Terrorism and borders (D’Amato 2018)</td>
<td>Workshop 8. Mapping transnational actors with ArcGIS (OECD 2020: 17-30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 20</td>
<td>Course overview, questions and answers.</td>
<td>No class. <strong>Final paper due April 26th at 11:59PM</strong></td>
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## Final grade

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<td>Mid-term paper</td>
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<td>Final paper</td>
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The major assessment components of this course include:

- Regular online attendance and participation. Students are expected to be at every online class meeting throughout the entire class session, and must not be reading other materials or use their cell phones. Participation entails responding to questions directed by the instructor and participating in peer-initiated discussions as well.

- Mid-term paper (2000-2200 words). In this descriptive paper, you will use the existing literature to discuss the origins, ideology, objectives, strategy and challenges of a terrorist organization of your choice. The selected organization must be active in 2020. For more information, see “How to write your mid-term paper” on Canvas. The mid-term paper is due **March 9th at 11:59PM on Canvas**.

- Final paper (4000-4200 words). This analytical paper will use the ACLED dataset to map and critically discuss the temporal and spatial evolution of an active terrorist organization in the world. For more information, see “How to write your final paper” on Canvas. The final paper is due **April 26th at 11:59PM on Canvas**.

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following numerical scale:


## Literature


**Software**

Students must have their own laptop or desktop computer. We will work with two programs (Excel, ArcGIS) available on UF Apps. The students are responsible for installing the software on their own computer or accessing UF Apps. The instructor cannot be held responsible for any damage or malfunction resulting from the installation or use of the programs.

**Ethics**

Please review the University’s policies regarding student conduct and conflict resolution, available through the Dean of Students Office website. Any violations of the Student Honor Code will result in a failing grade for the course and referral to Student Judicial Affairs.

**Other information**

The course is delivered online. It includes online lectures, discussions, tutorial exercises, and case studies. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. A course description is available here: https://one.ufl.edu/soc/
Books and articles can be accessed using UF’s Libraries: [http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/](http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/). To find a scientific journal, please go to **Journals** or use **Google Scholar**.

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the [Disability Resource Center](352-392-8565) 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.

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at [https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/](https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/)

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded.

If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.