COM 4930 Resilience & Communication ~ Course Syllabus ~ Spring 2019

COURSE CONTACT
Dr. Jade Williams
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Office: 414 Rolfs Hall
Office Hours: T 6:30-8:00 p.m. (by appt); Virtual Hours W 7:00-9:00 p.m.

CLASS MEETING INFORMATION
DAY/TIME: Mondays, periods 7-9
LOCATION: 314 Rolfs Hall

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course focuses on the role of communication in human resilience, with emphasis given to social, interpersonal and intrapersonal processes and outcomes relevant to the construction of resilience & resilience narratives.

REQUIRED TEXTS & JOURNAL
You will need to purchase a bound journal that you can keep with you and write in daily. Bring the journal with you to class each session. Readings will be assigned each week by your instructor.

INSTRUCTOR OBLIGATIONS
You should expect that Dr. Williams will:

1. Convey passion for course material.
2. Conduct the class in a manner that is engaging.
3. Assign meaningful work that allows you to engage the course, its content and material.
4. Grade assignments and provide helpful feedback in a timely manner.
5. Reply to your emails within 48 hours.
6. Attempt to relate material in this course to your everyday life and relationships, as well as to relevant global, social, and political contexts.

STUDENT OBLIGATIONS
Students who give themselves to and engage this course fully will embark upon an enlightening and empowering journey of self-discovery and expression. To help accomplish this, you are expected to:

1. Complete and spend time contemplating the readings before class each week.
2. Complete and submit all assignments in advance of the deadlines.
3. Participate actively in discussions and classroom activities.
4. Contribute positively to the classroom and group climates.
5. Take a self-motivated approach to the course, including personal accountability for your behavior and academic progress in the class.
6. Stay in contact with me throughout the semester. Communicate with me about the course and its content. Come to me, and let me help you, any time you have questions, problems or concerns related to your personal journey in this class.

CANVAS REQUIREMENT

Check your UFL.edu email and our Canvas course site frequently. If you have computer/internet or Canvas-related problems or questions, you can contact the UF Computing Help Desk at (352) 392-HELP [4357], or email helpdesk@ufl.edu. Your instructor is unable to assist in these matters, so please contact the Help Desk directly.

COURSE WORK

Observation Activities allow students the opportunity to observe course content as it plays out in real life.

Research Article Assignments allow students to begin exploring recent academic literature related to resilience in the context of their choosing.

Reading Assignments are designed to help students focus on the key terms and concepts in the assigned readings.

Group Movie Analysis – To complete this assignment, students will work in teams to analyze the main character or a movie with respect to resilience principles and individual factors.

In-Class Activities (ICs) occur during most class periods. If you are absent from class, ICs cannot be made up; however, one IC will be dropped.

Final Project details will be provided in class.

COURSE GRADES

ASSIGNMENT PERCENTAGE OF FINAL GRADE

20% = Resilience Project & Final Paper
20% = 5 Reading Assignments
20% = 5 Observation Activities
20% = 3 Research Article Assignments
10% = Group Movie Analysis
10% = In-Class Activities
100% Total

LETTER GRADE DESCRIPTIONS

A-/ = Excellent! In addition to excellent quality and performance, work that earns an “A” exceeds minimum requirements and expectations.

B+/− = Very good! A grade of “B” indicates successful completion of all assignment requirements with little room for improvement. Please note that all minimum requirements must be satisfactorily completed to earn a grade of “B” or better. Writing skills and overall performance are above average.

C+/− = Good! A grade of “C” indicates work in good standing. All minimum requirements are met, although some need improvement. Writing skills are average to excellent.

D = Passing…but below average. The assignment’s minimum requirements are not met and/or quality of work is less than average.

E = Not passing. Minimum requirements are not met and quality of work is poor.

FINAL GRADES

Below is the percentage and point break-down for each letter grade. Please be advised that I do not round up.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93.0 – 100 %</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>73.0 – 76.99 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A−</td>
<td>90.0 – 92.99 %</td>
<td>C−</td>
<td>70.0 – 72.99 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88.0 – 89.99 %</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67.0 – 69.99 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83.0 – 87.99 %</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>63.0 – 66.99 %</td>
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Special Note Concerning Final Grades of Incomplete

A grade of “Incomplete” is given only to a student with extreme circumstances that prevent the student from completing course requirements during the semester in which s/he is enrolled. Please be forewarned that an “Incomplete” can only be given to a student who has completed at the 50% of the class and who is passing the course with a grade of “C” or better at the time the Incomplete is negotiated. See the University’s policy for more information.

GENERAL ASSIGNMENT POLICIES

DEADLINES & LATE WORK

Assignment deadlines are listed on the Course Calendar. All work submitted to Canvas is due before 11:59 p.m. EST (before midnight) on its respective due date and have a 48-hour Extension Period during which late work will be accepted without penalty. After the Extension Period, no assignments will be accepted.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- In-Class Assignments must be completed in class on the day they are conducted; no exceptions.
- There is no Extension Period for In-Class Assignments and work that is to be submitted in class. For these assignments, deadlines are absolute.

SUBMITTING WRITTEN WORK

Although you will bring a typed copy to class, most written assignments will also be submitted through Canvas. It is your responsibility to ensure that your assignment has been successfully received by Canvas prior to the deadline. Submit only .doc or .rtf files.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE, UNIVERSITY-SANCTIONED EVENTS & RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

There are no excused or unexcused absences; so, there is no need to ask for my permission to miss a class. I view you as an adult who makes your own choices, including whether or not to attend classes. It is each student’s responsibility to submit assignments in advance of the deadline, regardless of one’s reasons for missing class; please plan accordingly.
Attendance requirements: Attend class only after having read the assigned readings, completed the assignments and prepared yourself to make meaningful contributions to class discussions that demonstrate familiarity with the readings.

IMPORTANT: Due to the importance of our in-class discussions and activities, if you will be absent from class frequently for any reason, you should withdraw from this course and enroll in another course that is scheduled on days you can attend.

Please note that In-Class (IC) assignments must be completed in class on the days they are conducted to earn points; no exceptions.

For more on UF’s Attendance Policies, please go to the following website:

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

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

All submitted work during the course, written or oral, will be the student’s personal, original work, with credit being given to sources used. If a student violates this understanding, evaluations of work must be affected accordingly and if necessary, adjudication will be processed by procedures approved by the University of Florida Honor Court.

GETTING HELP

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 911.

STUDENT CONDUCT

The Dial Center for Written and Oral Communication strives for a classroom climate that is comfortable for all. Students are expected to behave according to the UF student code of conduct in their classes. This means treating their instructors and fellow classmates with respect. Public Speaking can be a stressful course and it can be a positive experience. To ensure a positive learning environment, students should not: make complaints publicly (in front of other students); attack the instructor verbally, physically, or in written form; or express reactions in the classroom that
would bring harm to other students. Failure to meet the UF code of conduct can impact a student’s class participation grade or result in referral to the UF judicial office. Class atmosphere can be made or broken by the approach that students take to the challenges of the course. Students that support others, show good humor in the face of obstacles, show dedication in the face of setbacks, and show grace when others are not doing as well will help to create a positive communication climate.

In a communication class, it is especially important for each of us to:

- Display respect for all members of the classroom – including the instructor and students;
- Pay attention to and participate in all class sessions and activities;
- Avoid racist, sexist, homophobic or other negative language that may unnecessarily exclude members of our campus and classroom;
- Avoid unnecessary disruption during class time (e.g., having private conversations, reading the newspaper, surfing the internet, doing work for other classes, making/receiving cell phone calls, text messaging, etc.).

**NO COMPUTERS & NO CELL PHONES**

Computer and/or cell phone use is prohibited in the classroom. Each violation of this rule is subject to a 5-point deduction from your final grade. If you must use your cell phone or computer during class time, please leave the room and return when finished. Failure to adhere to this rule may result in dismissal from the class.

**DISABILITY AND SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS**

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me privately, as soon as possible, so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure a successful and educational experience. It is your responsibility both to notify me and to make the first contact with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Additionally, you must provide written documentation from the DRC at least one week prior to the date in which you are requesting accommodations.

**RIGHT TO PRIVACY**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) ensures that your student records (for any students over 18 years of age) are kept confidential. I will not release your grades to anyone other than you or school officials who are given permission to view your progress. Anyone other than you (or an approved school official) may not request any information (beyond simple directory information) about you, your progress, or your status as a student in my class – this includes parents, partners, and other students. For more information, see the University of Florida website for The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

**ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTER SYSTEM**

As a student in this class you’re subject to the Acceptable Use Policies for UF’s computer systems. Anyone violating these policies will receive an automatic grade of "E" for the course and will be
referred to the University for Disciplinary Action as deemed appropriate by the University of Florida Honor Court.

CHANGES TO COURSE SYLLABUS/CALENDAR

I reserve the right to update or change portions of this course syllabus and calendar in order to make the class a better experience for everyone. This may be in response to suggestions from students, from my own observations, or as the result of requirements by the Department, College, or University. Changes will be posted to the course site on Canvas.

COURSE FEEDBACK

I welcome feedback about the course. If we wait until university evaluations at the end of the semester, I cannot make changes that will help you. I regularly ask the class for feedback and suggestions regarding the tests and assignments. Please share your thoughts with me in an open and constructive manner during the semester. You can make suggestions in class, with me privately during office hours, or via email.

QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, COURSE PROBLEMS

If you have any concerns regarding the course, contact me via e-mail immediately. I am always willing to assist you in any way that I can. However, please do NOT contact me for computer, internet and/or Canvas-related problems. Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at (352) 392-HELP [4357], or email to helpdesk@ufl.edu for these matters. Computers do act up, so plan ahead and give yourself plenty of time before deadlines to complete and submit your work.

HAVE FUN WITH IT!

Feel free to play with the material, share your ideas, and contribute to the class. The more you engage the material and your fellow classmates, the more everyone will enjoy and benefit from the course.