

# HOS 6931: Horticultural Science Seminar

## ON-LINE SYNCHRONOUS COURSE

### Spring 2026

Instructor:	Leynar Leyton, PhD
Office:	May Building Room #54. UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center (155 Research Rd, Quincy, FL)
Classroom:	Zoom Link provided on Canvas
Office Hours:	By appointment
Office phone number and Email:	(850) 875-7162 / <a href="mailto:L.LeytonNaranjo@ufl.edu">L.LeytonNaranjo@ufl.edu</a>

#### **Course Description**

##### **HOS 6931 – 1 Credit, Prerequisite: none**

Scheme: S/U. Instruction and practice in presenting research and extension oral presentations in one or more of the following areas: research proposal; literature review related to student's research; research results; or topic of relevance to horticulture. Offered in spring.

#### **Course Structure**

Monday; Periods: 8-9 (3:00-4:55pm); Location: Zoom.

##### **OfficeHours**

By appointment. You are welcome to meet with me individually or in groups to clarify points, expand on discussions, and talk about how to integrate concepts covered in class with real world experiences. Please do not consider office hours exclusively as time to address difficulties in the course. You do not need a crisis to make productive use of office hours. Remember, we are here to help you succeed!

##### **E-Learning**

Go to <https://elearning.ufl.edu/> and sign in with your GatorLink credentials. Students who do not have a GatorLink, who experience difficulties with Canvas, or whose GatorLink does not work, should contact UF Computing Help Desk for assistance at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu) or (352) 392-4357

##### **Required Texts**

There are no required texts for this course.

**Additional Resources/Texts:**

- Atkinson, C. 2018. Beyond bullet points. Using PowerPoint to tell a compelling story that gets results, 4th Ed. Pearson Education, Inc., London, ENG, UK.
- Duarte, N. 2008. Slide:ology: The art and science of creating great presentations. O'Reilly Media, Inc. Sebastopol, CA, US.
- Reynolds, G. 2020. Presentation zen: Simple ideas on presentation design and delivery, 3rd Ed. New Riders, Pearson Education, Inc., London, ENG, UK.

**Course Goal**

Prepare graduate students for delivery of outstanding oral presentations by exposing them to aspects of effective content development, design, and story telling that enhance visual communication and presentation of research to a variety of audiences.

**General Course Learning Objectives and Outcomes**

Students should be able to achieve the following objectives and outcomes by the end of the semester

- Differentiate between extension and research presentations
- Plan and develop an attention-sustaining message
- Apply graphic design concepts to enhance message and to presentation design
- Delivering audience-centered presentations
- Actively engage audience members
- Formulate and ask thought-provoking questions of colleagues delivering presentations

**Course Expectations**

- Arrive to class on time
- Be engaged by sharing questions, perspectives, and ideas during and outside of class
- Convey superior work ethic and perform to high standards
- Practice thinking within the framework of visual communication
- Keep an open mind

**Instructional Philosophy**

My role as instructor for graduate level courses is to act as a catalyst for new knowledge and understanding, working cooperatively with graduate students to guide their thinking when necessary. I strive to create an open and inviting learning atmosphere where: 1) calls for clarification of ideas and concepts are expected; 2) free expression of divergent viewpoints are necessary; and 3) robust interchange occurs between all members of the class. I expect students to take full responsibility for their education. I will work hard to enhance your education by using a variety of teaching methods designed for actively engaging students in course concepts.

## **Student responsibilities**

### **Attendance and Make-up Policy**

Attendance is the student's responsibility. It is in your best interest to participate during every class period on Zoom. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to talk with the instructors and/or other students to discuss what you missed in class.

- All deadlines outlined in the syllabus are firm and may only be changed at the discretion of the instructor
- Two or more unexcused absences may result in a U grade.
- Late assignments are not accepted
  - Your instructor will consider cases of emergencies, serious illness, bereavement, or activities that fall under the Twelve-Day Rule for make-up work. You must provide official documentation for all cases.
- Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with UF policies found here:  
<https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>

### **Assessments and Grading**

<b>Assessments</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Academic Presentation on Topic of Interest</b>	50
<b>Extension Presentation on Topic of Interest</b>	50
<b>Participation and Presentation Peer Evaluations</b>	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	200

<b>Grading Scale</b>	<b>Percent</b>
A	≥ 93%
A-	93% – 90%
B+	89% – 87%
B	86% – 83%
B-	82% – 80%
C+	79% – 77%
C <sup>1,2</sup>	76% – 73%
U	< 72%

<sup>1</sup>A grade of S is equal to a C or better.

<sup>2</sup>The only passing grades for graduate students are A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C and S.

### **Grades and Grade Points**

For more information on current UF policies for assigning grade points see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#suoption>

<https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/>

### **University Academic Honesty**

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”. You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit 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."

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Click [here](#) to read the Conduct Code. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

### **UF Policies**

#### **Software Use**

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

#### **In-class Recording Policy**

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. A class lecture does not include student presentations, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments, 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.

### **Students Requiring 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.

### **Course Evaluation**

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 on the [Gator Evals page](#).

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### **Student Privacy**

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the [Notification to Students of FERPA Rights](#).

### **Campus resources**

#### **University of Florida Counseling Services**

Students experiencing crisis or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the University's counseling resources. The Counseling Center and Student Mental Health provide confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students.

Resources are available for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-294-2273, or visit <https://umatter.ufl.edu> to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress
- *Counseling & Wellness Center*: Visit <https://counseling.ufl.edu/> or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center*, call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit <https://shcc.ufl.edu>.
- *Career Connections Center*, Career assistance and counseling services. Reitz Union Suite 1300, 392-1601, <https://career.ufl.edu/>.
- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services*: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

**Tentative Course Schedule (\*\*Subject to change at instructors' discretion\*\*)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Content</b>
January 12	Course Overview Introductions
January 19	Holiday – No Class
January 26	Lecture 1: Presentation and design Principles
February 2	Lecture 2: Academic Presentations
February 9	Lecture 3: Extension Presentations
February 16	Creative Space Workshop for Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will use class time to work on your presentations. Students will share ideas/presentation drafts with instructors and receive feedback.</li> </ul>
February 23	Creative Space Workshop for Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will use class time to work on your presentations. Students will share ideas/presentation drafts and receive feedback.</li> </ul>
March 2	Creative Space Workshop for Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will use class time to work on your presentations. Students will share ideas/presentation drafts and receive feedback.</li> </ul>
March 9	Student Academic Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit peer evaluations of presentations.</li> </ul>
March 16	Spring Break – No Class
March 23	Student Academic Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit peer evaluations of presentations.</li> </ul>
March 30	Student Academic Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit peer evaluations of presentations.</li> </ul>
April 6	Student Extension Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit peer evaluations of presentations.</li> </ul>
April 13	Student Extension Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit peer evaluations of presentations.</li> </ul>
April 20	Student Extension Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit peer evaluations of presentations.</li> </ul>