IDS 6147 Perspectives in Modeling and Simulation  (3 hours)
Course Syllabus, Fall 2015

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Course Description
This is a mixed-mode/ reduced seat time course designed to introduce students to academic work in M&S at the graduate level. It is a core course for the M&S graduate programs, although we have many students from other UCF programs. By the end of the course, students will be aware of interdisciplinary challenges and opportunities facing this diverse field. Students will demonstrate familiarity with a range of topics and professional track options, with an emphasis on the resources available in the central Florida research corridor. Students will demonstrate fundamental written and oral communication skills. They will also demonstrate understanding of NSF merit review and ethical conduct regarding human subject data collection. It is the goal of this class to bridge undergraduate knowledge and graduate-level rigor.

The class is scheduled to meet in Partnership III, room 233 at 4pm-6:50pm. Class meeting schedule will be kept up-to-date on webcourses.

Course Goals
By the end of this course, students will:

- Demonstrate understanding of graduate level work expectations for the Modeling & Simulation program
- Explore interdisciplinary issues for conducting team science in M&S
- Present on an M&S topic (a group presentation)
- Peer-review presentations
- Be introduced to merit review of proposals
- Write a white paper, as a culmination of the course learning path

Contact protocol
Please use WEBCOURSES email to contact me if you have questions about the curriculum, assignments, or grades. The primary means of communication is our live class sessions and our webcourse site. It is your responsibility to check the course site at least twice a week. Also, be sure to set your course options so that you are informed immediately if there are any announcements.

Office Hours
I have hours dedicated to this class Thursdays from 12-3:00 pm. You may drop by my office during this time, or email me through webcourses to make other arrangements. That said, I also travel for research projects, so I highly advise scheduling any visit ahead. I’m also very happy to arrange other times to fit your schedule.
**Recommended Text**

Most modules will include links to academic work available online or through the UCF library. However, I also recommend (not require) the following text for those of you who have not had a statistics background, so that you may better understand results we discuss:

Salkind, Neil J. (2014) *Statistics for People Who (Think They) Hate Statistics*

**Assignments**

Each Module has assignments that will be made available online after the corresponding live class. Students (in-class or remote) will be able to view class materials within 24 hours of the live class and due dates will be marked. No late work is accepted. Exceptions to this policy must be made in writing and will be considered on a case by case basis.

Assignments include online quizzes, discussion participation, and other exercises that demonstrate mastery of module content.

**Evaluation methods**

To support diverse learners and provide a clearer picture of student progress, I use a variety of assessment & evaluation techniques. Each module has at least one graded assignment. These assignments include: brief text responses, discussion posts, quizzes, presentations, and papers. Assignments worth more than 5 points will include a rubric.

**Final Project**

The "final exam" is actually a white paper, due December 11, 2015 at 11:59 p.m. The paper must be submitted online through web courses. Do not wait until the last minute, as it is not uncommon for the servers to be overloaded during finals week. My advice is to play it safe and upload your work early.

**Late/missed assignments**

No late work is accepted. All assignments have a window of submission opportunity and your assignments will be accepted any time within that window. That said, I will consider exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

**Grades**

I use a 90-80-70-60 scale. I do my best to give PROMPT feedback to your work so that you are able to know how you are doing as the course goes on. That said, a large chunk of your points are collected in the second half of the course, so make sure you are tracking on the point values of individual assignments. Take advantage of the rubrics for assignments, as they will guide you to achieving maximum credit for your work.

**Changes/Announcements**

Though I try to plan for everything, life will surprise us and we may have to make adjustments. In the event that anything in this syllabus changes (e.g. classroom moves, changes in due dates, contact information), I will use a broad announcement so that all students are informed immediately. Again, it is critically important that you set your webcourse announcements so that you receive all notifications and be sure to check the class site at least twice a week.

**Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to
appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Accessibility Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Copyright

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Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need not make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.