



Mr. Aaron C. Karlson
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Hours: TBD

DIG2005 Introduction to Digital Technology SPRING 2025

Course Meetings: Tuesdays 11:45 AM – 1:40 PM, Thursdays 12:50 PM – 1:40 PM

Course Modality: Face-to-Face (F2F) Live

Course Communications Students can communicate directly with the instructor regarding the course material through the course management system (CANVAS) using “Canvas Mail”. Please do not use the standard UF email system for matters directly related to this course.

Course Description

To provide students an understanding and basic fluency in contemporary digital constructs and systems.

Course Prerequisites

Major or Minor in the BA or BS in DAS program or consent of the instructor.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast analog and digital systems
- Describe components and functions of digital hardware and software
- Demonstrate fluency in digital technology concepts and terms
- Analyze the components and functions of consumer electronics
- Demonstrate understanding of current technology trends including AI, Blockchain, AR/VR/MR, and IOT

Required Materials The course does not require you to purchase any textbook. The Office 365 ProPlus Software needed for this course is available to UF students through UFIT or other licensed commercial services. The exact version depends on which computer platform you use: (1) For MAC: Microsoft 365 Subscription for macOS (including WORD and PowerPoint 2019 version 16.19 and later) OR their equivalent Apple tools (Pages and Keynote). (2) For WINDOWS: Microsoft 365 Subscription (including WORD and PowerPoint 2019). Students will also need the capability to make documents in the .PDF file format. This can be done with Adobe Acrobat (information on student licenses also at UFIT on <https://info.apps.ufl.edu/adobeatufapps/>) or other readily-available software.

Course Technology Students will be required to have access to and use a personal computer with access to the Internet. Word editing software will be required for written assignments.

The University of Florida and Digital Worlds requires that students have access to, and ongoing use of, a laptop/mobile computer for DIG courses to be able to function in the current learning environment. Digital Worlds requires each DAS major’s laptop computer to meet certain minimum specs for heavy graphics use, the requirements documented below must be met.

<https://digitalworlds.ufl.edu/programs/ba-in-digital-arts-sciences/technology-requirements/>.

Course Weekly Schedule This course incorporates lectures, discussions, and weekly quizzes and written assignments. The following schedule is an overview of topics and assignments and may be subject to change. Unless otherwise indicated, Assignments are DUE by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on the Friday one week after the assignment is GIVEN.

The final exam time scheduled for this course will be announced in advance of each semester by the University of [Florida Registrar's Office \(Links to an external site.\)](https://registrar.ufl.edu/soc/) (https://registrar.ufl.edu/soc/)

Week	TOPIC	Assignments & Quizzes Given	Assignments Due in Week
0	Introduction and Overview	Quiz 0: Syllabus	
1	Analog and Digital Systems	Quiz 1 • Assignment 01 Given: Earliest Technologies	
2	By the Numbers	Quiz 2	3 • Assignment 01 DUE
3	Hardware, Software, and Firmware	Quiz 3	
4	Sound, Images, & Consumer Electronics	Quiz 4 • Assignment 02 Given: Design your Own	
5	Databases	Quiz 5	6 • Assignment 02 DUE
6	Network Matters: Connections & Protocols	Quiz 6	
7	BIG DATA: Concepts and Applications	Quiz 7: Midterm (all topics covered in modules 1-7)	
8	Virtual, Augmented, and Mixed Realities	Quiz 8	
9	Introduction to Artificial Intelligence	Quiz 9 • Assignment 03 Given: The Singularity	
10	The Internet of Things (IOT)	Quiz 10	11 • Assignment 03 DUE
11	Intro to Blockchain - Principles & Applications	Quiz 11	
12	Quantum Computing	Quiz 12 • Assignment 04 Given: The Next Big Thing	
13	Ethics and Computing Futures	Quiz 13	14 • Assignment 04 DUE
14	Careers in Digital Sectors	Quiz 14	
15	Review and preparation for Final Exam	Quiz 15 - FINAL (all topics covered in modules 8-14)	

Grading Criteria

Graded Course Components	Total Points	Percentage of Grade
Weekly Quizzes	250	25%
Four Assignments	200	20%
Midterm exam	200	20%
Participation	150	15%
Final exam	200	20%

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	% Equivalency	
A	94 – 100%	
A-	90 – 93%	
B+	87 – 89%	
B	84 – 86%	
B-	80 – 83%	
C+	77 – 79%	
C	74 – 76%	
C-	70 – 73%	
D+	67 – 69%	
D	64 – 66%	
D-	60 – 63%	
E, I, NG, S-U, WF	0 – 59%	More information on grades and grading policies is here: https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/

Material and supply and equipment use fee information are available from the academic departments or from the schedule of courses (Florida Statutes 1009.24). The total course fee for this class is \$0.00. The total course fee for each course is listed on the UF Schedule of Courses. (<https://registrar.ufl.edu/soc/>)

Course Policies

Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy

Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions in online course forums, and all assigned group activities including student-scheduled group meetings, project proposals, and project submissions.

Make-Up Policy

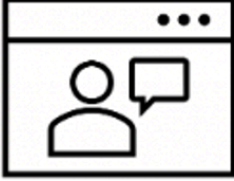
At the sole discretion of the Instructor, Quizzes may or may not be taken late. Documented Emergencies or medical situations may be the only accepted reasons for an excused absence on the day of an exam. Any assignment turned in past the due date may lose up to 10% of the total point value of the assignment for each class day it is late.

Assignment Policy

At the sole discretion of the Instructor, late work may not be accepted, or be penalized according to the course's late policy. Any assignment turned in past the due date may lose up to 10 points for each class day it is late. Documented emergencies or medical situations may be the only reasons for missing an assignment submission deadline or quiz without giving the instructor advance notice in writing.

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/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Course Modality


Online Asynchronous (OA)
Students watch the posted recording of the class session or studio recording online at their convenience.

Online Asynchronous (OAS)

Course modality is the way in which a class is offered/delivered to students by the instructor. All students, regardless of the modality, will achieve the same learning objectives. Students can check their class schedules or reference the top of this syllabus to see the format(s) available for each of their individual classes. The modality of a course does not vary during a semester, and students are expected to adhere to the instructor-defined attendance guidelines for that format.

Course Communications

Students can communicate directly with the instructor regarding the course material through the course management system (CANVAS) using "Canvas Mail".

Creation of Original Content Ethics

For original projects and all assignment deliverables, students should remember that representations of acts of violence, coarse and offensive language, sexual behavior, bodily function and ability, neurodiversity, and personal identity are likely to cause extreme audience response, regardless of the creator's intentions. In addition, the recreation of such actions and subjects for fictional purposes may unintentionally traumatize or negatively impact those who collaborate in the creation of the images. While the university encourages students to explore themes and tell stories that may include this difficult subject matter, they should be cautioned against modes or styles of representation that might be considered unnecessarily offensive or potentially triggering. Instructors, faculty, and university administrators reserve the right to not show or share any student work they feel is inappropriate for their classroom or for public exhibition, as there may be concerns about the impact of such work on the community. We encourage students to consult with their faculty when producing work that might be considered controversial, and to err on the side of being cautious when it comes to making decisions about a project's content - in other words, make the PG-13 version of your story, not the R version, and certainly not the "unrated" version. This is also to help students understand that most professional creative situations have strict guidelines and limitations on such content and how it is produced: your ability to tell stories effectively with "less" is a strong professional skill that will aid in the dissemination of your work to a broader audience.

Project Methodology Ethics

This course adheres to all University of Florida Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code available here <https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/4-040/Links> to an external site. The following examples concern digital arts projects:

- Students are not permitted to submit works from a previous semester of this course to any discussions, quizzes, assignments, projects, or any other assessments (regardless of the successful completion of those projects in that previous semester) unless given explicit permission by the instructor.
- Students are not permitted to submit any work created by any software outside of the approved software for this course to any discussions, quizzes, assignments, projects, or any other assessments unless given explicit permission by the instructor.
- Students are not permitted to submit any work completed in a previous or concurrent course for any discussions, quizzes, assignments, projects, or any other assessments in this course regardless of the type of work created. Additionally, students may not use work created in this course for assignments in any other course without the explicit permission of the instructors of both courses.
- Students are not permitted to use (in whole or part) story ideas, character identities, marketing materials, animation, live-action footage, audio, or any other materials created for another production for any discussions, quizzes, assignments, projects, or any other assessments unless given explicit permission by the instructor. This includes productions that the students have participated in.

Course Technology Support

Technology Support Center

The [Technology Support Center](#) provides computer support for Digital Worlds students who access Zoom, lecture recordings, student equipment, facilities, and other technology-based resources.

<http://digitalworlds.ufl.edu/support>

For computer assistance related to Zoon, lecture recordings, student equipment, and facilities requests please email support@digitalworlds.ufl.edu.

UF Computing Help Desk

For support related to account services, technical consulting, mobile device services, software services, administrative support, application support center, and learning support services, please contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 352-392-4357 or helpdesk@ufl.edu.

University Policies

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students 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." The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Class Demeanor

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. 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.

Netiquette Communication Courtesy

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats, more information can be found at: <http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

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. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

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: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/ferpa-confidentiality-student-records/>

Course Evaluation

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 <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. 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 <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

Disclaimer

This syllabus represents the Instructor’s current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

Campus and Academic Resources

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) 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 the Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).

Online Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).

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