

# Research Seminar for Exploration of Game Mechanic Research Frontier

## Course Information

- **Credit Hours:** 3 credit lecture
- **Academic Term:** Spring 2026

## Instructor Information

- **Instructor:** Dr. Bradford A. Towle Jr.
- **Office Location:** BARC 2033
- **Office Hours:** M,W,F: 11-1:45
- **Email address:** btowle@floridapoly.edu

## Course Delivery and Course Description

- **Delivery Mode:** Will meet once a week during the evening. Students will present a paper assigned to them, and then each student will provide their opinions, questions, and answers for the paper.
- **Meeting Time:** Thursday 4-6:45 PM
- **Course Website:**
- **Official Catalog Course Description:** This course will teach quantitative and qualitative research methods in today's Academia. Students will also learn valuable skills in searching for peer-reviewed papers, managing bibliographies, and effectively preparing a document for presentation. During the semester, the students will set up hypothetical experiments, outline publications, and be ready to create a thesis proposal.
  - **Course Pre and/or Co-Requisites:**
  - **Communication/Computation Skills Requirement (6A-10.030):** N
- **Required Texts and Materials:**
  - Students will need to learn Zotero and reach peer-reviewed papers available through Florida Polytechnic

## Course Objectives and Outcomes

- **Course Objectives:**
  - Students will understand the present state of research for game mechanics and design.
  - Students will be able to evaluate a paper's quality, including the testing mechanism used for research
  - Students will propose different research questions and critique other ideas. These proposals will also require a testing methodology draft.
  - Students will learn how to use Zotero to manage their bibliography

- **Course Learning Outcomes:**

	Outcome	Blooms Taxonomy
1	Students will provide reviews of paper backed by quantitative and qualitative metrics.	Evaluation
2	Students will be able to create a taxonomy of research by the end of the semester.	Synthesis
3	Students will define a research problem, including a proposed methodology and testing procedure.	Synthesis
4	Students will learn how to manage their bibliography through software assistance.	Application

## Academic Support Resources

- **Library:** Students can access the Florida Polytechnic University Library through the University website and [Canvas](#), on and off campus. Students may direct questions to [library@floridapoly.edu](mailto:library@floridapoly.edu).
- **Peer Learning Strategists (PLS):** Are specially trained student leaders who help their peers strategize approaches to course content and work through solution methods. PLS work in collaboration with the courses they support so the content and methods are aligned with your instructors' expectations. Students can meet with a PLS in The Learning Center, which is located on the first floor of the Innovation, Science and Technology (IST) building in room 1019.
- **Academic Success Coaches:** All students at Florida Poly are assigned an Academic Success Coach. Your Academic Success Coach can assist you with academic success strategies. Please visit the Student Success Center on the second floor of the IST building to meet with an Academic Success Coach.
- **Writing Center:** Located on the second floor of the IST (2059/2061), the Writing Center helps students to develop their writing and presentation skills. Consultations are available in person and virtually. For more detail, visit <https://floridapoly.edu/writingcenter>.

## Civility and Collegiality (optional statement)

Faculty and students come to the university for the same reason, which is to participate in a highly professional educational environment. To that end, both students and faculty are expected to treat each other with mutual regard and civility. Communication, written, oral and behavioral, between faculty and students must remain respectful. Within and outside of the classroom, students must refrain from derogatory comments toward the faculty member and their fellow students, and faculty as well must refrain from derogatory comments toward their students. Faculty and students should address each other with respect, in accordance with the wishes of the faculty and the students: for example, no one should be addressed by their last name alone.

Faculty from the outset of a course can and should specify what constitutes activities and behavior that take away from, that diminish, the educational environment. An individual student's distracting behavior impedes the education of fellow students, which itself is a form of disrespect. Civility and collegiality also include respecting each other's time: for example, neither students nor faculty should arrive late to class (unless unforeseen, pressing circumstances prevail); faculty should be present at the posted office hours; and students and faculty should be punctual when meeting times are scheduled. In more general terms, collegiality means respecting the right of both faculty and students to participate fully and fairly in the educational enterprise.

## Course Policies

Students will be assigned to review a paper; two students will present their paper per class period. All students are expected to read the paper and fill out a questionnaire evaluating the publication. Students are also expected to arrive at class with discussion points and contribute to a meaningful discussion. After all students have presented, each student will then select a paper on their own, possibly from a related work of another paper they have read. This process will be repeated for each of the student selected papers. Attendance is mandatory.

## Attendance

*(The language provided here is suggested and not required. Each department and instructor should make adjustments as appropriate. What is important and required is that there be a clear statement of policy or expectation in the syllabus on attendance).*

- Students in **face-to-face (this includes labs and C-courses)** courses are expected “to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as defined by the instructor” (University Policy, FPU-5.0010AP).
- [Also, **INSERT**: Exceptions to any attendance requirements may be made on a case-by-case basis.]

## Participation

*(Some optional language is suggested, offered up, below. If participation is an important element in a class and in its success, then the policy or at least expectations for participation should be in the syllabus.)*

Students are expected to participate in the classroom experience. The use of earbuds/headphones during class is specifically not allowed and students who engage in this behavior may be asked to leave the class for the day (noting exceptions for authorized accommodations). In addition, students who routinely do not bring materials to class that are required for participation, will not be given credit for class attendance, and if this becomes a pattern of behavior, may be asked to leave the class for the day. Persistent problems with participation may result in a [code of conduct](#) referral.

## Late Work/Make-up work

*(Instructor or department policy on late/make-up work should be consistent with attendance policy and include some case-by-case caveat as well. Importantly, the policy on late or make-up work should be stated in the syllabus!)*

## Grading Scale

A >= 93 77>C>=73

93>A->=90	73>C->=70
90>B+>=87	70>D+>=67
87>B->=83	67>D->=63
83>B->=80	63>D->=60
80>C+>=77	60>F

*(See [University Grading Policy](#)).*

## Assignment/Evaluation Methods

Attendance	5
Discussion Participation	10
Midterm	30
Paper Searches and Readings	15
Mock Game Research Project	20
Mock Conference Proceedings	20

## University Policies

### Reasonable Accommodations

The University is committed to ensuring equal access to all educational opportunities. The University, through the Office of Disability Services (ODS), facilitates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and documented eligibility. It is the student's responsibility to self-identify as a student with disabilities and register with ODS to request accommodations.

If you have already registered with ODS, please ensure that you have requested an accommodation letter for this course through the [ODS student portal](#) and communicate with your instructor about your approved accommodations as soon as possible. Arrangements for testing accommodations must be made in advance. Accommodations are not retroactive.

If you are not registered with ODS but believe you have a temporary health condition or permanent disability requiring an accommodation, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

The Office of Disability Services (ODS):  
DisabilityServices@floridapoly.edu  
(863) 874-8770  
The Access Point  
[ODS website: www.floridapoly.edu/disability](http://ODS website: www.floridapoly.edu/disability)

## Accommodations for Religious Observances, Practices and Beliefs

The University will reasonably accommodate the religious observances, practices, and beliefs of individuals in regard to admissions, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments. (See [University Policy](#).)

## Title IX

Florida Polytechnic University is committed to ensuring a safe, productive learning environment on our campus that prohibits sex discrimination and sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking. Resources are available if you or someone you know needs assistance. You may speak to your professor, but your professors have an obligation to report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator. Please know, however, that your information will be kept private to the greatest extent possible. You will not be required to share your experience. If you want to speak to someone who is permitted to keep your disclosure confidential, please seek assistance from the Florida Polytechnic University [Ombuds Office](#), BayCare's Student Assistance Program, 1-800-878-5470 and locally within the community at [Peace River Center](#), 863-413-2707 (24-hour hotline) or 863-413-2708 to schedule an appointment. The [Title IX Coordinator](#) is available for any questions to discussion [resources and options](#) available.

## Academic Integrity

The faculty and administration take academic integrity very seriously. Violations of [academic integrity regulation](#) include actions such as cheating, plagiarism, use of unauthorized resources (including but not limited to use of Artificial Intelligence tools), illegal use of intellectual property, and inappropriately aiding other students. Such actions undermine the central mission of the university and negatively impact the value of your Florida Poly degree. Suspected violations will be fully investigated, possibly resulting in an academic integrity hearing and sanctions against the accused student if found in violation. Sanctions range from receiving a zero on the exam or assignment, to expulsion from the university. Repeat offenders are subject to more severe sanctions and penalties.

Any "special" instructions that are appropriate for academic integrity and the course should go here.  
(*It is essential that a heading and a statement on what constitutes, includes, academic integrity be included in the syllabus, and that the students be made aware of academic integrity at the beginning of a course.*)

## Recording Lectures

Students may, without prior notice, record video or audio of a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled for their own personal educational use. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation or class attendance. Recordings may not be published or shared in any way, either intentionally or accidentally, without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements is a violation of state law (subject to civil penalty) and the student code of conduct (subject to disciplinary action).

*Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to lab sessions, student presentations (whether individually or part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), and invited guest speakers is prohibited.*

## Course Schedule\*

Week		
1	Welcome. About this class. Assign reading	
2	Quantitative Research Proper use of a Word Processor	"How to Read a Paper"
3	Qualitative Research Zotero	Find a paper with Quantitative Research
4	Other CS specific Research Methods Discussion on Quantitative Papers	Find a paper with Qualitative Research
5	Discussion on Qualitative Research Setting up research	Find a Paper with one of the other forms of research
6	Other Research Discussion Review	
7	Midterm	
8	Game Design and Academic Research	Look up different Game Design publications
9	Discussion on applying academic research toward Game Design	Set up your own project (outline 1)
10	Project (mini) proposals	3 <sup>rd</sup> level outline for your hypothetical publication
11	Power Point	Mock conference presentation for your hypothetical project
12	Mock Conference Proceedings	
13	Mock Conference Proceedings	
14	Discussion on your future research	
15		

\*Schedule is tentative