

LAPS-5391-001
Independent Study
Fall 2022

Instructor Information

Instructor(s)

George Siemens, PhD

Email Address

gsiemens@uta.edu

Faculty Profile

Information about me can be found here: <https://mentis.uta.edu/explore/profile/george-siemens>

Office Hours

Given the global nature of the MS LA program, I haven't set office hours. I am willing to meet with you at flexible times. Please email me and I'll confirm within 24 hours.

Course Information

Time and Place of Class Meetings

This course, and the entire MS LA, is exclusively online. All meetings will be held online through MS Teams or Zoom.

Description of Course Content

Independent Study is a course that allows students to pursue projects and research work that is directly relevant to personal interests but that might not be covered in the existing MSLA course sequencing. In this course, you will coordinate with your instructor to determine a personal path of study as well as the skills and knowledge that you would like to gain through the course. With the growing array of open learning materials, such as through Coursera or through professional societies like SoLAR, provides students with an opportunity to craft a personal learning plan that is directly relevant to personal interests.

The process of selecting your Independent Study involves three steps done in collaboration with the course instructor:

1. Determine scope and intent of project, resulting in a "Goal Statement"
2. Detail learning outcomes for the duration of the course
3. Create a detailed schedule of key activities as well as milestones

Student Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes for this course are set in consultation with your instructor. The scope of work should be in-line with a rigorous graduate course and should reflect the time required to succeed in advanced studies. As such, the outcomes will need to demonstrate sustained and significant effort as well as challenging activities that address the general MSLA program.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials

No textbooks or readings are required, but the outcomes of selecting your area of independent study will require academic readings and literature.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations

Assignments

This course has three primary assignments, each with tight time constraints. Failure to achieve the activities in the times indicated in the schedule will result in a zero grade for that assignment.

Learning Contract: 15%

This assignment will require you to create 2-3 page “contract” or overview of your Independent Study and should include your motivation and interests, goals, learning plan, and artifacts that you will develop as part of your studies.

Learning Outcomes 10%

This assignment requires that you develop between 4-6 outcomes, written in general language common in learning design, that detail clearly the intended outcomes. It will be part of your contract, but grade separately.

Independent Study Work 75%

The actual project has several components:

1. On a weekly basis, once you’ve completed the first two assignments (Contract and Outcomes), you will provide a short progress update (~250 words) that details what you did during the week in relation to your project (this is 30% of the course grade) and what you are learning. You will submit this in three stages of the course, each contributing to 10% total course grade.
2. A final detailed presentation (~30 minutes) that describe what you learned, what you did in the course, and the artifacts that support evidence of learning (30% of the course grade)
3. Artifacts of learning (this is planned with your instructor early in the course and assessed at the end). (15% of the course grade)

Technology Requirements

This course will primarily take place in Canvas, with some one-on-one meetings held in Zoom or MS Teams.

Other Requirements

You will also be invited to attend online webinars and conference during the duration of the course, and the MS LA program in general. These events may require additional technologies not detailed above.

You will explore additional technologies as you do your group work and methodologies. These tools will be decided by your group members, but none will be required or mandated.

Grading Information

Grading

Grades will be posted on Canvas following three days after each assignment has been submitted. The grade scale is as follows:

90-100 points	A
80-89 points	B

70-79 points	C
60-69 points	D
< 60	F

There is no extra credit. The best predictor of a good grade is regular engagement with the course and reading of the assigned material within the assigned week.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study

Beyond the time required to view each online lecture, students should expect to spend at least an additional 5-7 hours per week in course-related activities, including reading required materials, engaging with peers, and completing assignments.

Grade Grievances

Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog.

Course Schedule

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. This may include the addition of a guest speaker or changes to the course material covered during the weeks detailed below.

Dates	Topic	Assessment Details	Comment
Sept 15	Learning Contract	2-3 pages	15% course grade
Sept 15	Learning Outcomes	4-6 outcomes	10% of course grade
Oct 14	Progress update #1	Weekly summary of learning	10% of course grade
Nov 11	Progress update #2	Weekly summary of learning	10% of course grade
Dec 5	Progress update #3	Weekly summary of learning	10% of course grade
Dec 9	Presentation	30 min presentation	30% of course grade
Dec 9	Artifacts of learning	Evidence of completing contract	15% of course grade

Please see the fall 2022 academic calendar for important dates:

<https://www.uta.edu/academics/academic-calendar/fall-2022>

Institutional Information

UTA students are encouraged to review the following institutional policies and informational sections and reach out to the specific office with any questions. To view this institutional information, please visit the [Institutional Information](https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php) page (<https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php>) which includes the following policies among others:

- Drop Policy
- Disability Accommodations
- Title IX Policy
- Academic Integrity
- Student Feedback Survey

- Final Exam Schedule

Additional Information

Master of Science in Learning Analytics Orientation and Resource Hub

This [Orientation and Resource Hub](#) is a central resource for students in the master's program. It has all critical information related to the program, any events, UTA resources, and training for new students.

Departmental and Program Assistance

If you have any questions about the MSLA program, please contact Justin T. Dellinger, Ph.D. at jdelling@uta.edu.

Attendance

At the University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator of student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. Since the MS LA is fully online, attendance is less consequential than engagement. As the instructor of this course, I will encourage you to log on daily and be active in readings and discussions.

While UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report must the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Canvas. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Academic Success Center

The Academic Success Center (ASC) includes a variety of resources and services to help you maximize your learning and succeed as a student at the University of Texas at Arlington. ASC services include supplemental instruction, peer-led team learning, tutoring, mentoring and TRIO SSS. Academic Success Center services are provided at no additional cost to UTA students. For additional information visit: [Academic Success Center](#). To request disability accommodations for tutoring, please complete this [form](#).

The English Writing Center

The Writing Center offers **FREE** tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at the [Writing Center](https://uta.mywconline.com) (<https://uta.mywconline.com>). Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see [Writing Center: OWL](#) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

Library Information

Each academic unit has access to [Librarians by Academic Subject](#) that can assist students with research projects, tutorials on plagiarism and citation references as well as support with databases and course reserves.

Research or General Library Help

Ask for Help

- [Academic Plaza Consultation Services](https://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza) (library.uta.edu/academic-plaza)

- [Ask Us](http://ask.uta.edu/) (ask.uta.edu/)
- [Research Coaches](http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach) (http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach)

Resources

- [Library Tutorials](http://library.uta.edu/how-to) (library.uta.edu/how-to)
- [Subject and Course Research Guides](http://libguides.uta.edu) (libguides.uta.edu)
- [Librarians by Subject](http://library.uta.edu/subject-librarians) (library.uta.edu/subject-librarians)
- [A to Z List of Library Databases](http://libguides.uta.edu/az.php) (libguides.uta.edu/az.php)
- [Course Reserves](https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves) (https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves)
- [Study Room Reservations](http://openroom.uta.edu/) (openroom.uta.edu/)