

## Message from the Instructor (Dr. Kevin Edgar) for GRAD 5004, Fall 2021

For registrants for GTA Workshop this fall (GRAD 5004), we wanted to make you aware of some details and ask for your input. **If you have not yet registered for the workshop, please do so as soon as possible.**

The fall 2021 version of GRAD 5004 will be unlike any previous versions in some respects. First, the location; for those in or coming to Blacksburg, the in person Phase I portion of GTA Workshop will be held in the beautiful, spacious, world-class Moss Arts Center. We are very fortunate to have the help of the whole Moss crew, particularly in the wake of the flood this summer that severely damaged our usual venue in the Graduate Life Center (GLC). Phase I will begin at 8:30 am on Tuesday, August 17. Sign in is required (bring your Hokie Passport), and will begin promptly at 8 am. We anticipate completion between 3:30 and 4 pm. Lunch will be provided; see details below. Coffee will not be provided this time since it is not permissible to bring food or beverages (other than water) inside the Moss auditorium. So please caffeinate as you wish before you arrive in the morning, and/or during the lunch break.

GRAD 5004, including Phase I, will be available to you in several forms this fall. We encourage all vaccinated students who are able to be there to attend the live Phase I session in the Moss Arts Center on Aug. 17. For those unable to be there, the Phase I sessions will also be Zoomed, and you will receive the link for the Zoom meeting in about a week. All sessions for Phase I and Phase II will be recorded, and will then be available for asynchronous completion for those for whom that is necessary. Phase II sessions will be offered live once, with a Zoom option, and the asynchronous option.

The pandemic is of course not over, and it is important that we protect one another this fall, while enabling safe interactions with one another to the extent possible. Therefore, for those of you who for whatever reason will not have been fully vaccinated by Aug. 17, please STAY AWAY from the Moss, and participate by Zoom. For those attending in person, please wear a mask while in the Moss, as mandated by the University. The presenters including Dr. Edgar will unmask while presenting up on the Moss stage, but otherwise will also wear masks. Let's each of us do our part to extinguish this pandemic.

### Action items:

- **Please complete this brief Qualtrics survey** (should take you about 1 min) at: [https://viriniatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_aaQM2Fi6EHkSU06](https://viriniatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aaQM2Fi6EHkSU06) by August 10 to indicate whether you will be attending Phase I in person or by Zoom, or if you are unable to participate synchronously. The survey also includes details about dietary restrictions and special accommodations for those participating in person.

- Please bring your Hokie Passport with you if you are participating in person (if you are participating on Zoom, we will be able to see that you are doing so).

- Be aware that parking on campus will be extremely limited during the week of August 16-20 due to new student move-in. We recommend that you take a BT bus or walk or bike to campus.