

Graduate Seminars (ME 758)

The Graduate Seminar Course is a seminar series presented by graduate students and guest speakers. ME758 is a zero credit course. All full-time Mechanical Engineering graduate students are required to register in the course and are responsible for satisfying the requirements before the completion of their degree. Dr. Judd is the coordinator for ME 758 (juddr@mcmaster.ca, JHE-308B, ext 24993)

Purpose of the Course

- To widen the scope of knowledge of each graduate student by requiring him/her to participate in seminars related to and different from his/her research topic
- To enable each graduate student to gain knowledge of what each other is doing in order to establish a sense of community
- To develop/improve confidence in presentation skills and techniques

Seminar Schedule

[\[2023-2024 Seminar Schedule\]](#)

Please note that the seminar schedule changes regularly. Check regularly and pay attention to the weekly announcement emails. The seminars will take place Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 10:30 am in the Fall semester.

General Information

- Graduate students must register in ME 758 **in both Term 1 and Term 2** so long as they have full-time status
- Overtime, part-time, visiting, and exchange students must not register in ME 758 although they are more than welcome to attend the seminars
- Full-time M.A.Sc. students are required to present one graduate seminar in term 4, 5 or 6 of their six term full-time eligibility. Full-time Ph.D. students are required to present one graduate seminar in term 10, 11 or 12 of their twelve term full-time eligibility.
- Each M.A.Sc. presenter will have a 15 minute timeslot, 10 minutes for the presentation and 5 minutes for questions. Each Ph.D. presenter will have a 20 minute timeslot, 15 minutes for the presentation and 5 minutes for questions.
- Please consult the Seminar Schedule every week for details and changes in the names of the seminar presenters.
- Attendance is taken at the end of each seminar. A minimum of 90% attendance per semester (not year) is required to pass ME 758, which means that only one seminar can be missed without an explanation being provided. If for any reason you are not able to attend a seminar, you must send an e-mail to Diane Siv-Parr before the seminar session.
- The grade for the course is either Pass or Fail (P/F) based upon attendance
- Any student wishing to change the session in which they have been scheduled to make their presentation must make their own arrangements to exchange with another student. The change must be emailed to Diane Siv-Parr well ahead of time. For anything more complicated, please contact Dr. Judd.
- For those students scheduled to present a seminar, the title and abstract of the seminar are expected no less than four days preceding the seminar session. Email the title, the expected graduation date and abstract to Diane Siv-Par using the template that will be emailed to you prior to your presentation and **upload your presentation to TEAM ME 758.**

Seminar Assessment

Students are encouraged to convey their assessment of each presentation using the arrangements that will be made available to the students after the seminar presentation. The assessments will be made available to the seminar presenters after the seminar session.

The seminar assessments performed by the faculty will not be made available until the faculty have approved the choice of the Best Presentation Award winner at the end of the semester.

Presentation Guidelines

- Your audience is generally not familiar with your research topic. The time allotted to you for your presentation is very short so that that is unlikely that you will be able to present your entire research project. Focus your presentation on some interesting aspect of the research investigation in which you are engaged.
- Review your slides with your supervisor at least 3 days in advance of your presentation so that necessary changes can be made in time.
- Rehearse your presentation to get the timing right. You have limited time to give your presentation and you will be asked to stop if you exceed this time.

Some Examples of Great Technical Talks.

- Prosthetic knees <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIy2oVJtJsA>
- 3D Printing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihR9SX7dgRo>
- Nanopatches for vaccinations <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGRy5VU-LfI>
- Packaging material designed from fungus
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmDENxTPn8Q>

Some Options for Powerpoint

- Sample Graphic design in Powerpoint <http://mech.mcmaster.ca/docs/ME758%20how-to-create-infographics.ppt>
- Sample Infographics in Powerpoint
http://mech.mcmaster.ca/docs/ME758%20Template_1.pptx
http://mech.mcmaster.ca/docs/ME758%20Template_2.pptx
http://mech.mcmaster.ca/docs/ME758%20Template_3.pptx

Non-Powerpoint Options

- A tutorial on how to use Prezi <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hVaJuTYKss>
- How to use Latex (Beamer) to make presentations
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCRFsOKSM7eO-WX2ENa5A5vtNx1kjPefY>
- Information on some other web based presentation tools <http://www.sitepoint.com/top-5-web-presentation-tools-compared/>