

EP702
Course Title
Graduate Studies
Fall/Winter 2020/21
Course Outline

CALENDAR/COURSE DESCRIPTION

Each student is required to prepare and present a formal seminar, based upon extensive research work and literature surveys, in areas related to their current research. A pass/fail grade will be assessed based on overall performance in the course.

PRE-REQUISITES AND ANTI-REQUISITES

Prerequisite(s): NA
Antirequisite(s): NA

INSTRUCTOR OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Chang-qing Xu
JHE A417
cqxu@mcmaster.ca
ext. 24314

Office Hours:
Thursday 10:00am – 11:30am Or by appointment

COURSE WEBSITE/ALTERNATE METHODS OF COMMUNICATION

<http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/>

McMaster email will be used in communication.

COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Improve the breadth of knowledge of graduate students, and awareness of other departmental research.
- Contribute to departmental seminar series.
- Improve the presentation skills of graduate students.

MATERIALS AND FEES

Required Texts:

NA

Recommended Additional Texts:

NA

Calculator:

Only the McMaster Standard Calculator will be permitted in tests and examinations. This is available at the Campus Store.

Other Materials:

NA

COURSE FORMAT AND EXPECTATIONS

The course is organized as follows:

- Each student will be required to prepare and present a 40-minute seminar based upon extensive research work and literature surveys, in areas related to their current research.
- A one-hour seminar slot will be scheduled every week during the term, and 1 graduate student will present his/her research at each seminar (depending on the enrollment).
- The seminars will be held online using the Zoom.
- The students should discuss with their supervisors to identify a topic for the presentations.
- Students are assumed to do rehearsal and practice within their research groups (with the help of their supervisors) before the formal presentation.
- The student is responsible for locating the speaker ahead of time and getting the introduction ready.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date/Week	Topic
Week 1	Organizational meeting
Week 2	Course overview, presentation skills and tips
Week 3	Student presentation
Week 4	Student presentation
Week 5	Student presentation
Week 6	Student presentation
Week 7	Student presentation
Week 8	Student presentation
Week 9	Student presentation
Week 10	Student presentation
Week 11	Student presentation
Week 12	Student presentation
Week 13	Student presentation
Week 14	Student presentation

*the schedule may be changed depending on enrollment.

ASSESSMENT

Component	Weight
Introduction for another speaker	10%
Preparing for the seminar (contacting 3 faculty members, etc.)	5%
Presentation	50%
Summary and comments/suggestions	35%
Total	100%

- The student will give an outstanding seminar which stresses the background of their research topic (and may include some preliminary results if available) at a level that is both comprehensible and entertaining for the entire department.
- The student will provide a 2-minute introduction for the next speaker in schedule. The introduction must include a) the educational background of the speaker, b) a description of the supervisor and her/his research areas of

interest. b) the specific topic being pursued by the speaker, c) the title of the speaker's talk. d) More details about the speaker's background and interests and other fun facts about the speaker. e) News from the relevant research group.

- The student must use 2 Power point slides for the introduction for consistency among speakers.
- The speaker is also tasked, as an introducer, to contact 3 faculty members (other than the supervisor) who seem relevant to the talk as graders for the talk. These faculty members may not all show up, but the task is to request that they attend the talk.
- All other students will grade the introductions and the presentation using an evaluation sheet.
- Each student will be required to attend and participate in at least 75% of the course seminars within the course.
- Each student will be required to write a one-page summary and comments/suggestions about each seminar they attend.
- Each seminar should not last for more than 40 minutes. It should cover:
 - i) The background motivation of your research topic.
 - ii) Examples of the current state of the industry that is relevant to your topic.
 - iii) The basic science underlying your topic.
 - iv) The approach you are taking and the justification for your approach in your research.
 - v) A few of your key research achievements if you already have them.
 - vi) A brief summary and next steps.
- There will be a Q&A after the each seminar.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Every registered student belongs in this course. Diversity of backgrounds and experiences is expected and welcome. You can expect your Instructor to be respectful of this diversity in all aspects of the course, and the same is expected of you.

The Department of Engineering Physics is committed to creating an environment in which students of all genders, cultures, ethnicities, races, religions, sexual orientations, abilities, and socioeconomic backgrounds have equal access to education and are welcomed and treated fairly. If you have any concerns regarding inclusion in our Department, in particular if you or one of your peers is experiencing harassment or discrimination, you are encouraged to contact the Chair, Associate Graduate Chair, Academic Advisor, or to contact the [Equity and Inclusion Office](#).

These principles and expectations extend to online activities including electronic chat groups, video calls and other learning platforms.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

For a list of McMaster University's resources, please refer to the [Student Wellness Centre](#).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of common academic dishonesty:

1. plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. improper collaboration in group work.
3. copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Note that **allowing** another student to copy one’s work also falls under academic dishonesty and will be treated in the same way as copying another student’s work.

AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster’s use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.), or be delivered fully online. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss them with the course instructor.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online

platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

Note that accommodations granted while in the undergraduate program do not transfer automatically to the graduate program.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.