

ENG PHYS 702
Graduate Seminars
 Fall/Winter 2019/20
 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:
 Wednesday 10:00am – 11:30am Or by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 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.

COURSE OVERVIEW*

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

Week 12	Student presentation - 5
Week 13	Student presentation - 6
Week 14	Student presentation - 7

*the schedule may be changed depending on enrollment.

- Each student will be required to prepare and present a 20-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 other week during the term, and 2 graduate students will present their research at each seminar (depending on the enrollment).
- 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.

PRESENTATION AND 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 another speaker on the same day of their talk. 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.
- The student introducer is responsible to order up to \$25.00 worth of cookies, cake or Timbits for each talk that they introduce. The department will reimburse students for this.
- 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 20 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.

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.

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.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>

The following illustrates only three forms of 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.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contact by phone at 905.525.9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail at sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT ABSENCE AND SUBMISSION OF REQUEST FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC WORK

1. If you are seeking relief for missed academic work because of an absence lasting less than three days in duration, you must use the [McMaster Student Absence Form](#).

2. Absences lasting more than three days must be reported to the Associate Dean's Office (JHE-A214) and appropriate documentation must be provided. For medical absences, the University reserves the right to require students to obtain medical documentation from the Student Wellness Centre.
3. You should expect to have academic commitments Monday through Saturday but not on Sunday or statutory holidays. If you require an accommodation to meet a religious obligation or to celebrate an important religious holiday, you may use the McMaster Student Absence Form or contact the Associate Dean's Office.
4. At the third request for relief of academic missed work, you will be asked to meet with the Assistant or Associate Dean (or delegate). Relief for missed academic work is not guaranteed.
5. You are responsible to contact your instructor(s) promptly to discuss the appropriate relief.
6. It is the prerogative of the instructor of the course to determine the appropriate relief for missed term work in his/her course.

NOTICE REGARDING POSSIBLE COURSE MODIFICATION

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

TURNITIN.COM STATEMENT

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity/>.

ON-LINE STATEMENT FOR COURSES REQUIRING ONLINE ACCESS OR WORK

In this course, we will be using e-mail to communicate. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

REFERENCE TO RESEARCH ETHICS

The two principles underlying integrity in research in a university setting are these: a researcher must be honest in proposing, seeking support for, conducting, and reporting research; a researcher must respect the rights of others in these activities. Any departure from these principles will diminish the integrity of the research enterprise. This policy applies to all those conducting research at or under the aegis of McMaster University. It is incumbent upon all members of the university community to practice and to promote ethical behaviour. To see the Policy on Research Ethics at McMaster University, please go to <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/faculty/Conduct/ResearchEthicsPolicy.pdf>.