

Graduate Seminars (ME 758)

The Graduate Seminar Course is a seminar series presented by graduate students and guest speakers. ME 758 is a zero credit course. All full-time, in-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); the course is administered through Avenue to Learn.

Purpose of the Course:

- to widen the scope of knowledge of each graduate student by requiring them to participate in seminars related to—and different from—their research topic;
- to enable each graduate student to gain knowledge of what their peers are doing in order to establish a sense of community; and
- to develop/improve confidence in presentation skills and techniques.

Seminar Schedule

[\[2018-2019 Seminar Schedule\]](#)

Please note that the seminar schedule changes regularly. Dates designated "TBA" often have guest speaker presentations, but other offerings are possible. You should refer to the schedule for details and changes in the names of the seminar presenters from week to week. The regular schedule is as follows:

Tuesdays, Sep 4 – Dec 11
(EVERY week, including midterm recess)
1:30 PM-2:20 PM in T13 127

Wednesdays, Jan 9 – Apr 3
(Every week, including midterm recess)
10:30 AM-11:20 AM in T13 125

General Information

- Graduate students must enroll in ME 758 **for both Term 1 and Term 2** as long as they have full-time status.
- Overtime, part-time, visiting, and exchange students must not enroll in ME 758 although they are more than welcome to attend the seminars.
- M.A.Sc. students are required to present one graduate seminar before they graduate; Ph.D. students are required to present 2 seminars.
- Each presenter will have a 15-minute timeslot (10 minutes for the presentation and 5 minutes for questions).
- Attendance is taken at each seminar; a minimum of **90% attendance per term** (not year) is required to pass ME 758, which means that only one 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 [Nicole McLean](#) 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 e-mailed to [Nicole McLean](#) well ahead of time. For anything more complicated, please speak to [Dr. Judd](#).
- **For students scheduled to present a seminar: your abstract is due at noon on the Thursday of the week before your presentation.**
 - You should complete your abstract based on the template found under "General Information" in Avenue's table of contents; once finished, **submit by clicking "Assessments">"Assignments">"Abstracts"**, and complete the form. Please submit as a PDF using the filename "YourLastName_Abstract".

- After your presentation, on the same day, please **submit your presentation by clicking "Assessments">"Assignments">"Presentations"**; it will be archived and available for viewing by all students. Please submit as a PDF using the filename "YourLastName_Presentation".

Seminar Feedback Sheets

Students are expected to complete feedback sheets that will be returned to the seminar speaker after the presentation.

The feedback sheets completed by faculty members are not returned until they have approved the choice of the Best Presentation Award winner at the end of the term.

Presentation Guidelines

- Your audience is not familiar with your research topic. The time allotted to you for your presentation is very short so you will not 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 10 minutes maximum 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/>