ME 758 Graduate Seminar Course

Purpose of the Course

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[at]mcmaster.ca, JHE-308B, ext 24993)

- 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

Please note that the seminar schedule changes regularly. Dates designated “TBA” often have guest speaker presentations. Check regularly and pay attention to the weekly announcement emails. The seminars will take place on Tuesdays at 10:30 am in Term 1 in MDCL 1105 and Wednesdays at 11:30 am in Term 2 in HSC 1A6.

General Information

- Graduate students must register in ME758 in both Term 1 and Term 2 as long as they have full-time status
- Overtime, part-time, visiting, and exchange students must not register in ME758 although they are more than welcome to attend the seminars
- M.A.Sc. students must present one graduate seminar before they graduate, Ph.D. students must 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 ME758, 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 Lily Sazz-Fayter and Dr. Judd (copy your supervisor) 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 at 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 Lily Sazz-Fayter well ahead of time. For anything more complicated, please speak to Dr. Judd.
- For those students scheduled to present a seminar, the title and abstract of the seminar are expected no later than Thursday noon preceding the seminar session. Email the title, the expected graduate date and abstract to Lily Sazz-Fayter using the template that she will email to you prior to your presentation.

Seminar Feedback Sheets

Students and Faculty members will complete feedback sheets that the speaker will ask to have back at the end of the presentation.
The feedback sheets completed by the Faculty are not returned until the Faculty have approved the choice of the Best Presentation Award winner at the end of the semester.

**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. Notice how even the titles are interesting.**

- Prosthetic knees [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lly2oVJtJsA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lly2oVJtJsA)
- 3D Printing [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihR9SX7dgRo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihR9SX7dgRo)
- Nanopatches for vaccinations [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGRy5VU-LfI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGRy5VU-LfI)
- Packaging material designed from fungus [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmDENxTPn8Q](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](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_1.pptx)
  - [http://mech.mcmaster.ca/docs/ME758%20Template_2.pptx](http://mech.mcmaster.ca/docs/ME758%20Template_2.pptx)
  - [http://mech.mcmaster.ca/docs/ME758%20Template_3.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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hVajuTYKss)
- How to use Latex (Beamer) to make presentations [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCRFsOKSM7eO-WX2ENa5vtNxlkjPeFy](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCRFsOKSM7eO-WX2ENa5vtNxlkjPeFy)
- Information on some other web based presentation tools [http://www.sitepoint.com/top-5-web-presentation-tools-compared/](http://www.sitepoint.com/top-5-web-presentation-tools-compared/)