ECE 790
Communication Skills for Graduate Research in Electrical and Computer Engineering
COURSE OUTLINE

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Graduate students in electrical and computer engineering will develop their skills in communicating their research to a broad audience via a series of workshops and coaching sessions, culminating in a graduate student research presentation day. All graduate students are required to register for this course as outlined in “General Requirements.” Grading will be restricted to pass/fail (P/F).

SCHEDULE AND MODE OF DELIVERY

This course will consist of a series of workshops and coaching sessions throughout the term, and a final presentation day at the end of term, based on the Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) presentation format. There will be a mix of in-person and on-line sessions.

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. S. Sirouspour
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Email: sirous@mcmaster.ca

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To develop skill and confidence in preparing and giving research-oriented oral presentations, particularly those aimed at broad audiences.

COURSE MATERIALS

3MT web site:

https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/

Videos of workshops by Dr. Bandler:

- February 2021 McMaster workshop: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJTskhBqDnw
- November 2020 ECE workshop: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVCb1YwGko4
Example presentations:
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQdHtWisK4g
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7D4lAtsPQXI
- https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVXVJvkEq8EU0ATNyMyicFsP8KAy8CoLF

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Introductory workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Draft slide and script to be submitted</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Feedback workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>10–13</td>
<td>Coaching sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Final slide and script to be submitted</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Final presentation day</td>
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At certain points in the course it may make good sense to modify the schedule. The instructors may modify elements of the course and will notify students.

**ASSESSMENT**

This is a zero-credit P/F course. Assessment will be based on engagement with the workshops and coaching sessions and the final 3MT presentation.

**CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS**

As a McMaster graduate 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.
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.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS 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.

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.

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.
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.

www.eng.mcmaster.ca/ece