

ENGPYHS 702
Graduate Seminars
Graduate Studies
Fall 2023
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. Gitanjali Kolhatkar
JHE A318
kolhatkg@mcmaster.ca
ext. 24932

Office Hours:
By appointment

COURSE WEBSITE/ALTERNATE METHODS OF COMMUNICATION

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.
- Improve the presentation skills of graduate students.

MATERIALS AND FEES

Required Texts:

N/A

Recommended Additional Texts:

N/A

Calculator:

N/A

Other Materials:

N/A

COURSE FORMAT AND EXPECTATIONS

The course is organized as follows:

- Each student will be required to prepare and present a 5-minute talk about a topic of their choice, a 20-minute seminar based upon extensive research work and literature surveys, in areas related to their current research, and a short 3-minute talk on their research topic.
- A one-hour seminar slot will be scheduled every week during the term, and 2 graduate students will present his/her research at each seminar (depending on the enrollment).
- The seminars will be held in person.
- The students are encouraged to discuss with their supervisors to identify a topic for the presentations.

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
5 min Presentation	10%
20 min Research Presentation	50%
3 min Research Presentation	5%
Feedback 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 their peers.
- The students will first provide a 5-minute presentation on a topic of their choice. This talk should include a) the name of the speaker, b) the title of the talk, c) the motivation for the topic, d) details about the topic, c) a summary highlighting the key points of the talk.
- Each research seminar should not last for more than 20 minutes (15 min talk followed by 5 min Q&A). 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 each seminar.
 - The students will first provide a 3-minute presentation on their research topic. This talk should focus on the main goal of the topic and build upon the feedback received.
 - All other students will provide feedback regarding the presentations
 - **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 provide feedback, comments/suggestions about each seminar they attend.

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, 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 Undergraduate Chair, Academic Advisor or to contact the [Equity and Inclusion Office](#).

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.

COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

McMaster is committed to an inclusive and respectful community. These principles and expectations extend to online activities including electronic chat groups, video calls and other learning platforms.

In this course, we will be using McMaster email. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using online elements, 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 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 this 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.

COURSE POLICY ON MISSED WORK, EXTENSIONS, AND LATE PENALTIES

It is the students’ responsibility to regularly check their McMaster emails for updates and announcements.

SUBMISSION OF REQUEST FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC WORK

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

1. **Relief for missed academic work worth less than 25% of the final grade resulting from medical or personal situations lasting up to three calendar days:**
 - Use the [McMaster Student Absence Form](#) (MSAF) on-line self-reporting tool. No further documentation is required.
 - Students may submit requests for relief using the MSAF once per term.
 - An automated email will be sent to the course instructor, who will determine the appropriate relief. Students must immediately follow up with their instructors. Failure to do so may negate the opportunity for relief.
 - The MSAF cannot be used to meet a religious obligation or to celebrate an important religious holiday.

- The MSAF cannot be used for academic work that has already been completed attempted.
 - An MSAF applies only to work that is due within the period for which the MSAF applies, i.e. the 3-day period that is specified in the MSAF; however, all work due in that period can be covered by one MSAF.
 - The MSAF cannot be used to apply for relief for any final examination or its equivalent. See *Petitions for Special Consideration* above.
2. **For medical or personal situations lasting more than three calendar days, and/or for missed academic work worth 25% or more of the final grade, and/or for any request for relief in a term where the MSAF has been used previously in that term:**
- Students must report to their Faculty Office to discuss their situation and will be required to provide appropriate **supporting documentation**.
 - If warranted, the Faculty Office will approve the absence, and the instructor will determine appropriate relief.

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.