

K797
Independent Research Study
Summer 2020 Course Outline

Information Systems
DeGroote School of Business
McMaster University

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The goal of this course is to perform an extensive literature review to identify a topic of research for the student's Ph.D. dissertation. In this course, the student's research skill is developed by engaging in research discussions and conducting a literature review in the area of the interest.

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT

Dr. Maryam Ghasemaghaei

Course Instructor

ghasemm@mcmaster.ca

Office: DSB- A203

Office Hours: by appointment

EVALUATION

Components and Weights

The components of the course grade will be calculated as follows:

Component	%
Weekly Participation	20%
Critical Review of a Research Paper	20%
Term Paper: Draft Report	20%
Final Report	40%
	100%

Weekly Participation: The student should provide a weekly progress report to discuss the findings with the supervisor.

Critical Review of a Research Paper: The student should critically review and analyze the relevant research published in the area of interest. The student also needs to identify the potential areas for future research.

Term Paper: The student should write a research paper in the area relevant to the intended dissertation research. The paper should include the following sections: Abstract, Introduction, Theoretical Background, Research Model and Hypotheses Development, Methodology Section, Conclusion, References.

TEXTBOOK

There is no required textbook for this course. The material which is related to the area of interest will be selected by the student which will be used as a reference material for the course.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

It is the student's responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the University Senate Academic Integrity Policy at the following URL:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

This policy describes the responsibilities, procedures, and guidelines for students and faculty should a case of academic dishonesty arise. Academic dishonesty is defined as to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. Please refer to the policy for a list of examples. The policy also provides faculty with procedures to follow in cases of academic dishonesty as well as general guidelines for penalties. For further information related to the policy, please refer to the Office of Academic Integrity at:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>

LATE AND MISSED ACADEMIC WORK

If the student misses a scheduled deliverable document for legitimate reason, the weight of that document will be added across other evaluation components of the course at the discretion of the instructor. The student should provide a documented explanation regarding the circumstances that resulted in missing the scheduled deliverable within 5 working days of the missed deadline. If the student does not submit the documentation for the missed deliverable document or if the rationale for missing the scheduled deliverable is deemed not legitimate by the instructor, the student will lose 10% for each day that the deliverable is late.

POTENTIAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE COURSE

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.

GRADE CONVERSION

At the end of the course your overall percentage grade will be converted to your letter grade in accordance with the following conversion scheme.

LETTER GRADE	PERCENT
A+	90 - 100
A	85 - 89
A-	80 - 84
B+	77 - 79
B	73 - 76
B-	70 - 72
F	00 - 69

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Deliverables
1	May 8	Meet with Dr. Ghasemaghahi at 3:30 pm. Prepare a one-page document explaining your intended research topic for this course. Suggest three potential research papers to critically review which should be related to the intended research topic.
2	May 15	Provide a document on your progress and email it to Dr. Ghasemaghahi.
3	May 22	Meet with Dr. Ghasemaghahi at 3:30 pm to discuss your progress.
4	May 29	Provide a document on your progress and email it to Dr. Ghasemaghahi.
5	June 5	Meet with Dr. Ghasemaghahi at 3:30 pm to discuss your progress.
6	June 12	Provide a document on your progress and email it to Dr. Ghasemaghahi.
7	June 19	Meet with Dr. Ghasemaghahi at 3:30 pm to discuss your progress.
8	June 26	Provide a document on your progress and email it to Dr. Ghasemaghahi.
9	July 3	<i>Hand in draft report.</i> Meet with Dr. Ghasemaghahi at 3:30pm to discuss your progress.
10	July 10	Provide a document on your progress and email it to Dr. Ghasemaghahi.
11	July 17	Meet with Dr. Ghasemaghahi at 3:30 pm to discuss your progress.
12	July 24	Provide a document on your progress and email it to Dr. Ghasemaghahi.
13	July 31	<i>Hand a final report.</i>