

## K797 – 02 Independent Research Study Summer 2020

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will involve performing an extensive literature review with the aim of identifying an appropriate topic of research for the student's Ph.D. dissertation. It may serve as a draft of the student's Ph.D. thesis proposal. The student's ability to critique research manuscripts and actively engage in research discussions will also be developed.

### INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Norm Archer  
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### ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

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

**Participation:** The student must give a weekly progress report (video conference or electronically) and participate actively in research discussions with her/his supervisor.

**Critical Review of a Research Paper:** The student will critically analyze a highly relevant and key research publication in her/his area of interest. Possible areas for thesis research by the student should also be identified.

**Term Research Paper:** The student shall write a research paper in an area related to her/his intended dissertation research. This paper should contain a comprehensive review of the

relevant academic literature, identification of research gaps, research questions to explore, and potential research methodologies. The paper should comprise the following sections: an Introduction, Literature Review (including a PRISMA report and literature coverage summary), Discussion of research gaps and research questions/hypotheses (including a suggested research model or conceptual framework), thoughts on potential Research Methodologies to answer those research questions/hypotheses, Conclusion, and Reference List.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

There is no required textbook. All existing material which is relevant to the topic of interest selected by the student and approved by the instructor will serve as reference material for the course.

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY**

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/academicintegrity>

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.

### **LATE AND MISSED ACADEMIC WORK**

Where the student misses a scheduled deliverable or is absent for a required component for legitimate reasons, the weight for that deliverable/component will be distributed across other evaluative components of the course at the discretion of the instructor. Documentation explaining the circumstances that resulted in missing the scheduled deliverable or assessment must be provided within five (5) working days of the missed deadline. If the student does not submit documentation for a missed deliverable or his rationale for missing the scheduled deliverable is deemed by the instructor to not be legitimate, the student will lose 10% for each day 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 email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

### **GRADING SCHEME**

At the end of the course, the student's overall percentage grade will be converted to a letter grade in accordance with the following conversion scheme.

| <u>Grade</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
|--------------|-------------------|
| A+           | 90-100            |
| A            | 85-89             |
| A-           | 80-84             |
| B+           | 77-79             |
| B            | 73-76             |
| B-           | 70-72             |
| F            | 0-69              |

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

| <b>Date</b>        | <b>Deliverables</b>   |
|--------------------|---|
| Tuesday<br>May 12  | <b><i>Prepare a one-page document outlining your intended research topic for this course. Suggest 3 potential research papers to critically review.</i></b><br>These papers should align with your intended research topic. Email document to Dr. Archer. |
| Tuesday<br>May 19  | Meet online with Dr. Archer @ 11 am. A decision will be made on which paper will be selected to provide a critical review.  |
| Tuesday<br>May 26  | Send an email update on your progress to Dr. Archer.  |
| Tuesday<br>June 2  | <b><i>Hand in critical review.</i></b> Discuss online with Dr. Archer @ 11 am.  |
| Tuesday<br>June 9  | Send an email update on your progress to Dr. Archer.  |
| Tuesday<br>June 16 | Meet online with Dr. Archer @ 11 am   |
| Tuesday<br>June 23 | Send an email update on your progress to Dr. Archer.  |
| Tuesday<br>June 30 | Meet online with Dr. Archer @ 11 am   |
| Tuesday<br>July 7  | <b><i>Hand in draft report.</i></b> Send via email to Dr. Archer  |
| Tuesday<br>July 14 | Meet with Dr. Archer @ 11 am  |
| Tuesday<br>July 21 | Send an email update on your progress to Dr. Archer.  |

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Tuesday<br>July 28  | Meet online with Dr. Archer @ 11 am         |
| Tuesday<br>August 4 | <b><i>Hand in final written report.</i></b> |