

K797 Independent Research Study Summer 2020

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will concentrate on performing an extensive literature review with the general aim of identifying an appropriate topic of research for the student's Ph.D. dissertation, and may serve as a draft of the student's Ph.D. thesis introductory chapter(s). The student's ability to appropriately critique research manuscripts and actively engage in research discussions will also be developed.

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Milena Head
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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 partake actively in research discussions with her supervisor.

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

Term Research Paper: The student shall write a research paper in an area related to her 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, a Literature Review, a Discussion of research gaps and research questions/hypotheses (this section should contain a suggested research model or conceptual framework), thoughts on potential Research Methodologies to answer those research questions/hypotheses, a Conclusion, and References.

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

Date	Deliverables
Monday May 11	<i>Prepare a one-page document outlining your intended research topic for this course. Suggest 3 potential research papers to critically review.</i> These papers should align with your intended research topic.
Tuesday May 19	Meet with Dr. Head @ 11 am. A decision will be made on which paper will be selected to provide a critical review.
Monday May 25	Provide an email update on your progress to Dr. Head.
Monday June 1	<i>Hand in critical review.</i> Meet with Dr. Head @ 11 am.
Monday June 8	Provide an email update on your progress to Dr. Head.
Monday June 15	Meet with Dr. Head @ 11 am
Monday June 22	Provide an email update on your progress to Dr. Head.
Monday June 29	Meet with Dr. Head @ 11 am
Monday July 6	<i>Hand in draft report.</i> Provide an email update on your progress to Dr. Head
Monday July 13	Meet with Dr. Head @ 11 am
Monday July 20	Provide an email update on your progress to Dr. Head.
Monday July 27	Meet with Dr. Head @ 11 am
Tuesday August 4	<i>Hand in final report.</i>