

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.

INSTRUCTORS

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ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

The student's grade will be calculated as follows:

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

Participation: The student must give a weekly progress report (face-to-face or electronically) and partake actively in research discussions with supervisors.

Critical Review of a Research Paper: The student will critically analyze a highly relevant and key research publication in his 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 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, 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 instructors 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 instructors. 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 instructors to not be legitimate, the student will lose 10% for each day the deliverable is late.

POTENTIAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE COURSE

The instructors 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
May 4	<i>Prepare a one-page document outlining your intended research topic for this course. Suggest potential research papers to critically review.</i> These papers should align with your intended research topic.
May 11	A decision will be made on which paper will be selected to provide a critical review.
May 18	Online meeting @ 10:00 am. Discuss and feedback
May 25	<i>Hand in critical review and identify research gap.</i>
June 1	Provide an email update on your progress in model building
June 8	Online meeting @ 10:00 am. Discuss and feedback
June 15	Provide an email update on your progress in hypothesis development
June 22	Online meeting @ 10:00 am. Discuss and feedback
June 29	<i>Hand in draft report and identify research model.</i>
July 6	Online meeting @ 10:00 am. Discuss and feedback
July 13	Provide an email update on your progress in research method
July 20	Online meeting @ 10:00 am. Discuss and feedback
July 27	<i>Hand in final report and identify research method.</i>