

**K797**  
**Independent Research Study**  
**Summer 2021 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](mailto: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:

<b>Component</b>	<b>%</b>
Weekly Participation	20%
Term Paper:	
Draft Report	20%
Final Report	60%
	100%

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

**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.

Summer 2021

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

<b>TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE</b>
----------------------------------

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>
1	May 6	Meet with Dr. Ghasemaghaei 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. Zoom link for the meeting: <a href="https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/96034692386">https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/96034692386</a>
2	May 13	Provide a document on your progress and email it to Dr. Ghasemaghaei.
3	May 20	Meet with Dr. Ghasemaghaei at 3:30 pm to discuss your progress. Zoom link for the meeting: <a href="https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/96034692386">https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/96034692386</a>
4	May 27	Provide a document on your progress and email it to Dr. Ghasemaghaei.
5	June 3	Meet with Dr. Ghasemaghaei at 3:30 pm to discuss your progress. Zoom link for the meeting: <a href="https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/96034692386">https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/96034692386</a>
6	June 10	Provide a document on your progress and email it to Dr. Ghasemaghaei.
7	June 17	Meet with Dr. Ghasemaghaei at 3:30 pm to discuss your progress. Zoom link for the meeting: <a href="https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/96034692386">https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/96034692386</a>
8	June 24	Provide a document on your progress and email it to Dr. Ghasemaghaei.
9	July 1	No Class
10	July 8	<b><i>Hand in draft report.</i></b>
11	July 15	Meet with Dr. Ghasemaghaei at 3:30 pm to discuss your progress. Zoom link for the meeting: <a href="https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/96034692386">https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/96034692386</a>
12	July 22	Provide a document on your progress and email it to Dr. Ghasemaghaei.
13	July 29	<b><i>Hand a final report.</i></b>