

Graduate Seminars (ME 758)

The Graduate Seminar Course is a seminar series presented by graduate students and guest speakers. ME758 is a zero-credit course. All full-time, in-time Mechanical Engineering graduate students are required to register in the course and are responsible for satisfying the requirements before the completion of their degree. Dr. Gadsden is the coordinator/instructor for ME 758 (gadsdesa@mcmaster.ca, JHE 307).

Purpose of the Course

- To widen the scope of knowledge of each graduate student by requiring them to participate in seminars related to and different from their research topic
- To enable each graduate student to gain knowledge of what each other is doing in-order-to establish a sense of community
- To develop/improve confidence in presentation skills and techniques
- To gain some useful skills during mandatory workshop sessions (only for those students presenting that semester)

Seminar Schedule

The seminar schedule can be found on the Resources page of our website, under “Graduate”

Please note that the seminar schedule changes regularly. Check regularly and pay attention to any announcement emails. The seminars will take place once per term, near the end of each semester (typically early December and April).

General Information

- Graduate students must register in ME 758 **in both Term 1 and Term 2** so long as they have full-time, in-time status
- Overtime, part-time, visiting, and exchange students must not register in ME 758 although they are more than welcome to attend the seminars
- Full-time M.A.Sc. students are required to present one graduate seminar in term 4, 5 or 6 of their six-term full-time eligibility. Full-time Ph.D. students are required to present one graduate seminar in term 10, 11 or 12 of their twelve-term full-time eligibility.
- Each presenter will have a 10-minute timeslot, 7 minutes for the presentation and 3 minutes for questions.
- Please consult the Seminar Schedule for details on the date, location, and list of presenters.
- Attendance is taken throughout the day of the seminar.
 - Attendance will be based on your participation in providing feedback to the presenters through their feedback sheet & is required to pass ME 758.
 - Only one presentation can be missed without an explanation being provided.
 - If for any reason you are not able to attend a presentation, you must send an e-mail to Dr. Gadsden (gadsdesa@mcmaster.ca) to get authorization; copy Diane Siv-Parr (mechgrad@mcmaster.ca) and your supervisor.
 - Your attendance is tracked after each presentation.
- **The grade for the course is either Pass or Fail (P/F) based upon attendance.**
- Any student wishing to change the session in which they have been scheduled to make their presentation must make their own arrangements to exchange with another student. The change must be emailed to Diane Siv-Parr well ahead of time. For anything more complicated, please contact Dr. Gadsden.

Presenters

- Students who are scheduled to present must participate in monthly workshops. Attendance will be taken at each workshop. **Attendance at all monthly workshops is required to pass ME 758.**
- Students who are scheduled to present must provide an extended abstract and their presentation prior to the presentation date.

- The two-page abstract is expected to be uploaded to the ME 758 MS Teams Channel no less than 1 month preceding the seminar day. Please refer to the Extended Abstract Guidelines on the ME 758 MS Teams Channel.
 - Presenters will also have to provide a peer review to other presenter's abstracts. Diane Siv-Parr will send details on the peer review once all abstracts have been submitted.
- The presentation is expected to be uploaded to the ME 758 MS Teams Channel no less than 1 week preceding the seminar day.

Seminar Assessment

Students are encouraged to convey their assessment of each presentation using the arrangements that will be made available to the students after the seminar presentation. The assessments will be made available to the seminar presenters after the seminar session.

Presentation Guidelines

- Your audience is generally not familiar with your research topic. The time allotted to you for your presentation is very short so that that is unlikely that you will be able to present your entire research project. Focus your presentation on some interesting aspect of the research investigation in which you are engaged.
- Review your slides with your supervisor at least 3 days in advance of your presentation so that necessary changes can be made in time.
- Rehearse your presentation to get the timing right. You have limited time to give your presentation, and you will be asked to stop if you exceed this time.

Some examples of great technical talks:

- Prosthetic knees <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lly2oVJtJsA>
- 3D Printing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihR9SX7dgRo>
- Nanopatches for vaccinations <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGRy5VU-LfI>
- Packaging material designed from fungus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmDENxTPn8Q>

Some options for PowerPoint:

- Sample Graphic design in PowerPoint
<http://mech.mcmaster.ca/docs/ME758%20how-to-create-infographics.ppt>
- Sample Infographics in PowerPoint
http://mech.mcmaster.ca/docs/ME758%20Template_1.pptx
http://mech.mcmaster.ca/docs/ME758%20Template_2.pptx
http://mech.mcmaster.ca/docs/ME758%20Template_3.pptx

Non-PowerPoint options:

- A tutorial on how to use Prezi <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hVaJuTYKss>
- How to use Latex (Beamer) to make presentations
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCRFsOKSM7eO-WX2ENa5A5vtNx1kjPefY>
- Information on some other web-based presentation tools <http://www.sitepoint.com/top-5-web-presentation-tools-compared/>