**ME/AE 5101 - Graduate Seminar**

**(all sections: 001/002)**

**Fall 2016**

Graduate Seminar is a weekly seminar series featuring research presentations from students and external speakers. This class will help graduate students broaden their perspectives by learning about ongoing research at UT Arlington and outside. In addition, students who give presentations in the seminar will improve their oral communication skills. Graduate students enrolled in this class are expected to attend the seminars each week.

**Class location and timing:** Fri 2:00pm – 2:50pm, NH 105

**Class Website:** [elearn.uta.edu](http://www.uta.edu/faculty/jaina/MAE3310) (Blackboard)

**Instructor:** Dr. Ashfaq Adnan

**Instructor’s Office:** Woolf Hall (WH) Room 315B

**Email Address *(primary means of communication outside class)*:** [aadnan@uta.edu](mailto:aadnan@uta.edu)

**Phone Number:** 817-272-2006

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Important Dates:**

**1st day of class: August 25, 2016**

**Census Date: September 12, 2016**

**Thanksgiving holiday: November 25, 2016**

**Last day to drop class: November 2, 2016**

**Last day of Class: December 2, 2016**

**Tentative Course Schedule:**

The instructor is in the process of arranging for internal and external speakers for the seminar. Graduate students registered for this class may be called upon to **present**\* their research.

**Attendance: Attendance is required**. Each student is permitted **one unexcused absence** during the semester.

If you have to miss a class for a compelling reason, you must make prior arrangement to be considered for “excused” absence.

**Seminar Report:** Students are required to submit short seminar report summarizing the seminar he/she attends each week. Students are required to follow the template and submission guideline provided at blackboard/in-class.

**Seminar Report is due by the due date posted at blackboard**. No late submission will be allowed other than emergency or mutually agreed prior arrangements.

***\*If you present, you will earn credit for one-day attendance + seminar report.***

**Late Arrival or Early Departure:**

**In-class students:** Please be on time for the class. Arriving five minutes after 2.00 pm or leaving the classroom without prior arrangement/emergency will be considered **late**. **Two “tardy” attendances will be considered equivalent to one day absent**. **If you attend a class but fail to submit report, you will be considered ½ day present.** ***Submitting seminar report without attending seminar will earn zero credit.***

**Online students:** To be considered “in full attendance”, online students must view at least 90% of the seminar before the seminar report is due and submit the seminar report. If you view less than 90%, you will be considered “late”. **Two late attendances will be considered equivalent to one day absent**. **If you attend a class but fail to submit report, you will be considered ½ day present.** ***Submitting seminar report without watching seminar video will earn zero credit.***

**Special Note on viewing seminar videos:**

***“The University of Texas at Arlington utilizes Echo360’s lecture capture system. This system is able to track your viewing of content on laptops and desktops only. Since viewing of class content is part of your grade, it is recommended you watch the videos on a laptop or desktop computer only.”***

If you have any questions or concerns, communicate with the instructor before the census date.

**Grading Policy**: Students registered in the class on a pass/fail basis will be graded on the basis of attendance, seminar report and quality of their research presentation\*, if applicable.

There will be a total of 14 seminars this semester. A maximum of 200 points can be earned from each seminar class (up to 100 points by attending and up to 100 points by submitting seminar report). The following guidelines will be followed to count total earned points by a student in one seminar class. Note that submitting a seminar report without attending a class will not earn any credit.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Maximum Earned Points |
| Full Attendance + Seminar Report | 200 |
| Tardy Attendance + Seminar Report | 150 |
| Full Attendance + Late Seminar Report | 100 |
| Tardy Attendance + Late Seminar Report | 050 |
| Present + no Seminar Report | 100 |
| Tardy + no Seminar Report | 050 |

**Tentative Grading Scale (maximum = 2800)**

2500 points or more: **Pass (P) (~90%)**

Less than 2500 points: **Fail (F)**

**Other Notes:**

**Classroom etiquette** Working on laptops/cellphones, texting, working on other courses, etc. are not permitted.

**Mode of communication:** E-mail is the preferred means for communicating with the instructor outside class. *To ensure that emails are read and responded to promptly, please include ‘ME5301****’*** *or ‘AE5101’ in the subject line.* Please use your UTA email address.

**Attendance:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. *As the instructor of this section, I strongly recommended attending each class. I will take attendance sporadically*. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Student Support Services**:UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Campus Carry:** Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located [insert a description of the nearest exit/emergency exit]. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

* *As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. –Ashfaq Adnan*

**Emergency Phone Numbers**: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381