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- A. Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes:** This seminar course will play a pivotal role in teaching the ME graduate students several important skills including presenting their specialized research to a general audience, delivering talks and will expose them to current cutting-edge research performed in other universities and research organizations. The course will help students develop the ability to listen to the work of other researchers and put it in context with their own research. After completing the course, students will
- develop presentation skills, demonstrating the ability to present their research to a general audience and deliver successful talks
 - be conversant in contemporary, cutting-edge research
 - discover and understand the relationship between the work of other researchers and their own personal research
- B. Program Learning Outcomes:** Program Learning Outcomes: The seminar course plays a significant role in the overall context of the ME graduate program. Targeted at the incoming graduate students, the informal conference setting prepares the graduate students for their future challenges since most students start presenting their work/attending conferences from their second year in graduate school. The course relates to the following ME graduate Program Learning Outcomes:
- Ability to identify significant research questions in mechanical engineering, and contextualize their research in the current literature of the field
 - Have lifelong learning skills; are able to acquire and use new engineering techniques, skills, and tools for research and development in mechanical engineering, and to develop new methods and discover new knowledge.
 - Are able to communicate effectively through oral, visual, and written means, with a broad range of technical audiences.
- C. Prerequisites:** Must be a graduate student of the ME graduate group to receive credit for this seminar series.
- D. Number of units:** 1
- E. Academic Dishonesty Statement:** The student will receive attendance only if they are physically present throughout the entire seminar. The student will receive an automatic U grade if he/she marks the attendance for other graduate students.
- F. Disability Statement:** The University of California Merced is committed to ensuring equal academic opportunities and inclusion for students with disabilities based on the principles of independent living, accessible universal design and diversity. I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances. Students are encouraged to register with Disability Services Center to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

- G. Instructor:** External/Internal speakers will present their recent research results. The ME seminar chair (currently Ala Qattawi) will be the internal point of contact and will keep track of attendance and grading for the seminar course.
- H. Course Schedule/Assignments/Resources:** There will be one seminar every week (on Fridays) and the students will receive a U grade if they do not attend 90 % of the total number of seminars. There will be **at least 10 seminars** over the course of the entire semester. As a reading assignment for every week, the students are required to read one recent publication (of their choice) of the seminar speaker prior to the seminar in order to participate in the 30-minutes discussion session with the speaker after the seminar. If the speaker agrees, the resources/slides from the seminar will be distributed to the students as reference material. The tentative schedule and list of speakers for this semester are given below (additional speakers may be added and you will be communicated during the semester).
- I. Assessment/Grading Policy:** Every graduate student registered for the course is expected to attend at least 90 % of the total number of held seminars in order to receive an S grade in this course. In addition, the student is expected to turn in a final paper (limited to 2 pages and due during the finals week) summarizing the seminars that he/she attended during the semester and potentially its relevance to their research topic. The attendance and the final paper will be weighted equally to determine the final grade (S/U) of the student. **Your attendance will be indicated in the grades section on CatCourses and it is your responsibility to check that every week and immediately notify the instructor if you did not receive credit for a seminar you attended.**
- J. Coordinator Office Hours:** Friday 1-2 pm or by appointment only
aqattawi@ucmerced.edu office SE2 274
- K. When & Where:** All seminars will be held in Class Room 113 Building from 2:00 to 3:20 pm.
- L. Seminars schedule** is available on Catcourse and is subjected to change. Updated or changed information regarding any seminar will be posted on CatCourse.