Final Research Seminar

Prerequisite: NRSC 644 or NRSC 753 for MSc and PhD students, respectively
Time: Thursdays, 10:05 am – 11:25 am
Place: R3-048, R3-038
Coordinator: Brian Driscoll (MS3-038; brian.driscoll@mcgill.ca)

Course description:

Graduate students in the Department of Natural Resource Sciences are required to give a final research seminar towards the end of their program. This seminar is for students to present the main findings from their research activities, with an emphasis on presenting the context of the research, main objectives, research methods and results, and a discussion of the implications of the results with respect to the larger research context.

Students may be asked to present their Final Research Seminar during an available seminar slot on Thursdays, during a guest seminar slot (typically at 11:35 am on Thursdays), during a special seminar slot or during an end-of-term departmental Research Symposium organized by the Course Coordinator.

Students must e-mail the Course Coordinator with the following information, ASAP: Name, Supervisor(s), Degree type (M.Sc., Ph.D.), Tentative seminar title, and any significant time conflicts during the semester or the first two weeks of December.

Learning objectives:

1. Apply the lessons learned via the graduate seminar courses to a final research seminar
2. Present a complex, completed research project to a diverse audience in a concise and clear fashion.
3. Continue to develop evaluation skills and the use of constructive criticism via peer evaluation of the seminars

Evaluation:

A. Abstract: 20%
B. Oral presentation: 80%
C. Seminar attendance and evaluation (required for course credit)

A. Abstract:

A maximum 110-word Abstract (plus 80-word bio) must be submitted on myCourses no later than one week before your scheduled presentation. The abstract should include introduction, hypotheses and objectives (or, problem and objectives), methodologies and results, and conclusions. The abstract must
be formatted using the Abstract_template_NRS.potx template for PowerPoint (see example below). Try to keep your abstract file from getting too big (1-2 MB should be big enough), via watching the size (resolution) of images imbedded in it. Submit to myCourses in pptx format please. Late submissions will not be accepted.

B. Oral presentation:

The oral presentation should include an introduction to your research topic, your hypotheses and objectives; or, problem and objectives, your results, a discussion of the results and conclusions. Make sure that methodologies used are explained well enough to reach a diverse audience as possible. Discussion of the results should include implications for your field of research and the ‘big picture’. Presentation lengths are expected to be approximately 20 minutes for MSc students and 40 minutes for PhD students, followed by a five-minute question period. The actual length of time, per seminar, will be determined by the Course Coordinator depending on the final number of students registered for the course so as to fit a schedule. Oral presentation grades will be calculated from the average grades provided by the professors in attendance.

C. Seminar attendance and evaluation:

Students are expected to attend and evaluate the seminar presentations of their peers. The minimum attendance for course credit is 70% of seminar presentations. Seminar attendance is recorded by Seminar Evaluation forms submitted to myCourses. A Seminar Evaluation form is to be completed for each presentation attended and submitted on myCourses within 24 hours. When submitting your evaluations, please submit a separate one for each talk and name the file such that the name includes both your surname and the speaker’s. Please submit as a dox file (not a pdf). For example, if I just saw a seminar by Scott Weiland, I would name my file as “driscoll_weiland.docx”.

If two concurrent seminars are offered, attendance at one of the two is required, and the percentage attendance will be calculated considering concurrent seminar offerings.

Note: Non-resident students will be accommodated on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the coordinator as soon as possible.

Schedule (tentative):

https://www.mcgill.ca/nrs/graduate-students/seminar/graduate-seminar-schedule

- Sept. 6 Welcome session
- Sept. 13 Attend FAES seminar “Ethics and Safety”, 10:00, in CCB
- Sept. 20 Attend FAES seminar “Ethics and Safety”, 10:00, in CCB
- Sept. 27 No Seminars – Graduate Program Info Session
- Oct. 4 Progress Report Seminars
- Oct. 11 Progress Report Seminars
- Oct. 18 Progress Report Seminars
Please let me know of any schedule conflict you, or your supervisor, may have before Jan. 18. We will try to accommodate your supervisor if possible.

The Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) recommends that all course outlines contain the following statement:

"In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change"

**McGill Policy Statements**

"McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures”
(see [www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/) for more information).

In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.

“© Instructor generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.”
Title of Seminar

Presenter

Position, Affiliation
