Welcome to the Course

(Official catalog version) Supervised study or research in area not covered by other graduate courses.

Key Course Elements

Course Objective

The focus of this course is to develop a research proposal that identifies current state-of-the-art areas where additional research is needed. This course will help the student formalize coherent methodology for identifying needed research areas, integrate information from literature surveys, understand budget and cost analysis, and improve writing/presentation skills.

Topic Covered

- Research Topic Identification
- Literature Surveys
- Proposal Writing
- Budget and Cost Analysis
- Professional Presentations

Course Structure

Instructor:

Dr. Justin Watson
178 Rhines Hall
Phone: 352-273-0241
Email: justin.watson@ufl.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Teaching Assistant (TA):

None
**Course Pre-Requisites/Co-Requisites:**

None

**Materials and Supply Fees:**

None

**Required Textbook and Software:**

None

**Recommended Materials:**

None

**Lecture Materials:**

Lecture will be in the form of informal weekly meetings with the student to discuss course projects and topics. Students are expected to attend all lectures.

**Course Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1 - 2:</th>
<th><strong>Research Topic Identification</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The student will identify 3 research topics they would like to investigate and present these topics to the professor during the weekly meeting.</td>
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<td><strong>Homework 1:</strong> This assignment will summarize each research project and identify areas of weakness and strengths. They will identify areas of improvement for each research topic identified. They will recommend one research project from this analysis.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Attend weekly meetings.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3 - 8:</th>
<th><strong>Literature Review</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The student will identify technical reports and scholarly articles that are relevant to the chosen research topic. During the weekly meeting, the student will summarize the literature review for that week and the major findings from each article reviewed. It is expected that the student will identify no fewer than 3 relevant articles each week.</td>
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<td><strong>Homework 2:</strong> The student will integrate the information from the literature review in a manner that clearly communicates the current state-of-the-art in the chosen research area and identifies what additional research is needed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9 - 12:</td>
<td><strong>Proposal Development</strong></td>
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<td>Based on the research needed acquired by the literature review, the student will develop a research proposal to address several of the identified areas. <strong>Homework 3:</strong> The student will submit a draft research proposal with specific approaches to solve the individual research areas.</td>
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<td>Attend weekly meetings.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 13 - 15:</th>
<th><strong>Budget and Cost Analysis</strong></th>
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<td></td>
<td>The student will work on finalizing the research project including timeline to completion and cost analysis of the project. The student will determine a realistic material, facility, and salary cost. <strong>Homework 4:</strong> The student will submit the project timeline and cost analysis and budget forms.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Attend Weekly meetings.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 16:</th>
<th><strong>Final Project Presentation</strong></th>
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<td>The student will work on the final oral presentation of research project. The student will then give an in-person presentation of the proposal. The presentation should be approximately 40 minutes in length with 20 minutes of Q&amp;A by the professor. The final course deliverables will be the completed research proposal and presentation.</td>
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## Expectations and Evaluation

**Attendance:**

Students are expected to attend all meetings. Attendance will be included in the grade as one point for each meeting period.

Excused absences must be in compliance with university policies in the Graduate Catalog ([http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#attendance](http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#attendance)) and require appropriate documentation.

**Grading Policy:**

Grades will be given for attendance, homework, and semester project using the following weights:
Attendance = 10%
Homework = 30%
Project Presentation = 20%
Final Project = 40%

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale and will be curved at the discretion of the instructor:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92 - 100</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>88 - 91</td>
<td>3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>84 - 87</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>81 - 83</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>78 - 80</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>76 - 79</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 - 75</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 - 72</td>
<td>1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>66 - 69</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63 - 65</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60 - 62</td>
<td>0.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>0 - 59</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Homework handed in up to 12 hours late will receive 30% off, homework handed in up to 24 hours late will receive 50% off. No homework will be accepted after 24 hours.

Requests for re-grading of any course document should be submitted as a written request within one week of the graded document being returned. After one week, re-grading requests will no longer be considered. In order to graduate, graduate students must have an overall GPA and an upper-division GPA of 3.0 or better (B or better). Note: A B- average is equivalent to a GPA of 2.67, and therefore, it does not satisfy this graduation requirement. More information on UF grading policy may be found at: [http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades](http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades) (Links to an external site.)

Final Exam:
None

Students Requiring Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting [https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/](https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/). It is important for students to share their
accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

**Course Evaluation:**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at [https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/](https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [https://ufl.blueram.com/ufl/](https://ufl.blueram.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at [https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/](https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/).

**In-Class Recording:**

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

**Online Course Recording**

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are
unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

University Honesty Policy:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code (https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Commitment to a Safe and Inclusive Learning Environment:

The Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering values broad diversity within our community and is committed to individual and group empowerment, inclusion, and the elimination of discrimination. It is expected that every person in this class will treat one another with dignity and respect regardless of gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture.

If you feel like your performance in class is being impacted by discrimination or harassment of any kind, please contact your instructor or any of the following:

- Your academic advisor or Graduate Program Coordinator
- Jennifer Nappo, Director of Human Resources, 352-392-0904, jpennace@ufl.edu
- Curtis Taylor, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, 352-392-2177, taylor@eng.ufl.edu
- Toshikazu Nishida, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, 352-392-0943, nishida@eng.ufl.edu

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy
There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see:  https://registrar.ufl.edu/ferpa.html

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

Counseling and Wellness Center:

https://counseling.ufl.edu, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, Assault, or Violence:

If you or a friend has been subjected to sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, or violence contact the Office of Title IX Compliance, located at Yon Hall Room 427, 1908 Stadium Road, (352) 273-1094, title-ix@ufl.edu

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS):

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department:

At 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or http://www.police.ufl.edu/.

COVID-19

- You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated.
- If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at
352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus.

- If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect, you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.
- UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website for more information.
- Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.

**Academic Resources**

**E-learning technical support**, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. [https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml](https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml).

**Career Resource Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling; [https://career.ufl.edu](https://career.ufl.edu).

**Library Support**, [http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask](http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask). Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

**Teaching Center**, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. [https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/](https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/).

**Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall**, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. [https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/](https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/).


**About Your Instructor**
JUSTIN C. KYLE WATSON, PHD, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Nuclear Engineering from the Pennsylvania State University. He worked for the Applied Research Laboratory and had dual title with the Nuclear Engineering Department at the Pennsylvania State University before joining the faculty in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Nuclear Engineering Program at the University of Florida in September of 2018.

Research Group: FAMMoS