

## ENCS 8011 – PhD Seminar (2 credits)

Following the Doctoral Proposal, the student should register for the Ph.D. Seminar course (2 credits), which is designed to train students to communicate the results of their research projects to the community and participate in research discussions. This is done when students have sufficiently progressed into their research, normally after 6 (12 for part-time students) months of being admitted to candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, which is normally after 24 (48 for part-time students) months of residency, and must be completed before the submission of the thesis. The Doctoral Seminar course will be a one-semester course. The student's evaluation is based upon attendance of at least three seminars, a report on the student's thesis research under the direction of the thesis supervisor(s), and an oral presentation. The student will receive a Pass/Fail grade for the Ph.D. Seminar course.

**Prerequisite:** ENCS 8511 - Doctoral Research Proposal.

### PhD Seminar Guidelines

#### 1) The student should prepare a written report with the following main objectives:

- Introducing the research problem and if there have been any deviations from the research goals stated in the proposal, they should be justified (1-3 pages).
- The introduction should also include a brief, recent literature review (1-3 pages).
- Presenting the progress made on the research problem since the proposal.
- The report should contain results as well as the methodology leading to these results (maximum 10 pages).
- Briefly discuss the remaining work and give an estimate of the time needed for the completion of the work (1-3 pages).
- Conclusions (1 page)
- The presentation of research results is very important for dissemination of information. Therefore, the written report should be clear and unambiguous.

Students will be asked to make a **20-minute oral presentation** to the Examination Committee, which is presided by the chair of the committee, followed by questions from committee members and students attending the seminar presentation.

## The Format of the Report

- A student may use an appropriate style manual (e.g. LaTeX) as specified by the supervisor.
- The report should be typed using an 11- or 12-point “Times New Roman” font with 1.5 line spacing.
- The main body of the written report (all chapters and appendices) should be at most 20 pages, including figures, tables ....
- The written report format may follow the following suggested outline:

Cover Page

Abstract

Table of Contents

List of Symbols

List of Abbreviations

### **Chapter 1** Introduction

Problem Statement

Motivation/Applications (important for the non-specialists)

Objectives/Problems

Basic Assumption/Limitations

Recent Literature Review

### **Chapter 2** Background

Different sections as appropriate to building the theoretical background for the topic emphasizing the most recent activities relevant to the subject.

### **Chapter 3** Recent Research Activities

Numerical/Measured Results and discussions

### **Chapter 4** Future Work and Conclusions

A detailed revised research plan of action and expected milestones

Potential Implications to knowledge/theory/practice

References

Appendices

## **2) The Presentation consists of three parts:**

- The student will have **20 minutes** for his/her presentation.
- Then, the question period will start.
- Finally, registered students in ENCS 8011 will have a chance to ask questions.

### 3) Presentation Schedules

The Ph.D. seminar presentations will take place on a chosen day/time after agreement with the supervisor and the committee members. Some committee members will be present during the seminar. The student will ensure that the supervisor confirms the availability of some supervisory committee members on the chosen date. The student will send an electronic copy of the report in PDF format to the Graduate Program Coordinator ([graduate@ciise.concordia.ca](mailto:graduate@ciise.concordia.ca)) at least two weeks in advance.

### 4) Evaluation

The Ph.D. seminar course will be graded as **Pass** or **Fail**. Following the presentation of the seminar, the Examination Committee will make a Pass or Fail decision based on the amount of progress and the quality of the research. The decision will also take into consideration the quality of the written report, the oral presentation, and the student's answers to the questions. If the examination committee gives a fail grade, then the student will be given a second chance after an appropriate period of time.

An important objective of the seminar course is to enable students to learn from each other. Therefore, students registered in ENCS 8011 must attend at least three seminars, including research seminars given by invited speakers, during the semester. Students are encouraged to ask questions during the seminars. Students must satisfy this attendance requirement to receive a Pass grade in the course.