

D.Sc. Research Seminar Guidelines

The objective of the research seminar topics course (INFS 890) is to allow students in the D.Sc. (IS) program to report, present and discuss research articles on specific topics in their areas of specialization as well as their own research, and thus provide a solid foundation for their dissertation. This seminar will be open for all interested faculty and students who wish to attend and participate in the discussions.

Prerequisites

None

Structure

Each research seminar topics course will be of 1 credit hour with *S* (satisfactory) / *U* (unsatisfactory) grade, counting towards the D.Sc. (IS) program requirements. Students will be required to complete 6 research seminar topic courses with an *S* (satisfactory) grade in each of these courses in order to meet the D.Sc. (IS) program requirements. Students must have completed at least 3 credit hours of research seminar topics courses before attempting the D.Sc. comprehensive examination. Also, students must have completed the requirement of 6 credit hours of research seminar topics courses before scheduling their final dissertation defense.

The procedural details of the research seminar would be as follows. Each section of INFS 890 would have a faculty supervisor assigned for each semester. The supervisor would be responsible for the logistics of the course, such as providing a potential reading list, coordinating student presentations, managing discussion forums, and grading. Each section of the course would consist of students' presentations on different, but possibly related topics. The nature of the presentations in each section may differ and will be decided by the faculty supervisor. Students may be asked to present their own research (either work-in-progress or based on a recent conference or journal publication) or a comprehensive literature review on a topic of their interest highlighting contemporary research issues. Alternatively, a list of key articles in a particular area may be provided and students will be asked to present articles from this reading list. Other articles may be included for presentation upon discussion with the faculty supervisor. These research seminars will provide an excellent opportunity for students to get feedback from their peers and faculty. To successfully complete each research seminar course, each student would be required to submit a written report based on the presentations conducted in that section of the course. Other related details such as focus/format of presentations, length of presentations, format/length of written report, will be provided by the faculty supervisor in each section of the course.

Presentations would be conducted synchronously for both on-campus and off-campus students through use of appropriate distance learning technologies. Presentations may be recorded and made publicly available for later reference. Asynchronous discussions on presentation topics may be enabled using discussion forums or wikis or related technologies.

Timeline

Students are encouraged to enroll in INFS 890 sections immediately at their beginning of the program and continue enrolling for one seminar course in the subsequent semesters (including summer) until all the six seminar course requirements are completed. This will enable them to get a broader perspective on different research topics, while also improving their presentation abilities and completing the requirements of the D.Sc. program in a timely manner.

Evaluation

Each student would be evaluated by the faculty supervisor and provided an *S* (satisfactory) or *U* (unsatisfactory) grade at the end of the semester. Sections with a *U* (unsatisfactory) grade will not count

for completion of the D.Sc. (IS) program requirements. Key criteria for grading would include student presentation abilities (key points coverage, research perspectives on the topic, presentation skills), and student participation through in class discussions and/or discussion forums, in addition to any other criteria set by the individual faculty in charge.