Course title and number: **Thesis II**

Instructor: Md Saydur Rahman, Ph.D. - Assistant Professor
Office Location: LHSC 2.812
Office Phone: 956-882-5041

Office Hours: Tue: 8:00-11:30 am, 1:00-2:30 pm
Email: md.rahman@utrgv.edu

Contract with Instructor: If you have any questions (e.g., research, assignment, grades, etc.) to the content of this course, please contact me via email (please use your UTRVG email), phone or come to my office. I will be most happy to assist you anytime (time permitting); however, it may be easiest to contact me during office hours.

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**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials – Journals, Readings, Supplementary Readings:**

*Research materials:* No textbook is required, internet resources and research materials (research protocol, research papers) will be provided by research supervisor.

*Readings:* Supplemental reading materials or references will be provided.

**Course Description:**
This supervised research course will include design of an original research problem with a written proposal, collection and analysis of original data, and writing of a scientific report in acceptable publication format. A maximum of 3 SCH of Thesis II will count toward the degree: subsequent enrollments will not count.

**Required Texts:**
None – Readings will be assigned and available via the UTRGV library or inter-library loan.

**Prerequisites**
EEMS graduate student pursuing the thesis option.

**Learning Objective/Outcomes:**
As a result of participating in graduate research, students will be able to: 1) integrate approaches to learning; 2) apply problem solving skills; 3) understand multiple approaches to problem solving; 4) demonstrate research skills; 5) develop research problems on their own; 6) examine problems and formulate research questions; 7) take responsibility for their own learning; and 8) communicate the results for their research.

**Course objectives met by students:** To both conduct research and reflect on the research process. Students are expected to engage in 3 hours of research for every 1 SCH per week.

**Course objectives met by instructor:** Dr. Rahman will assist students in developing their research skills by providing on- and/or off-campus research opportunities for students.

**Course Assessment:** Students fulfilling the research contact hour obligation will receive full credit for the course.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to engage in 3 hours of research for every 1 SCH per week.
**Incomplete grade policy:** An incomplete grade may be given when students have not completed the required course work within the allotted time of a regular semester if the student can demonstrate that the reason for the work being incomplete is justified. Incomplete grades are not issued for student's convenience; they may be issued only in the case of compelling, non-academic circumstances beyond the student’s control that must be demonstrated.

**Calendar of Activities:**
The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at [http://my.utrgv.edu](http://my.utrgv.edu) at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Important dates for Spring 2019 include:

- Jan. 14 (Mon.) Spring classes begin
- Jan. 17 (Thurs.) Last day to add or register for Spring classes
- Jan. 18 (Fri.) Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive an 80% refund
- Jan. 21 (Mon.) Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. No classes.
- Jan. 28 (Mon.) Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive a 70% refund
- Feb. 4 (Mon.) Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive a 50% refund
- Jan. 30 (Wed.) Census Day (last day to drop without it appearing on the transcript)
- Feb. 11 (Mon.) Last day to withdraw (drop all Spring classes) and receive a 25% refund
- Mar. 11 – Mar. 16 (Mon. – Sat.) Spring Break. No classes.
- April 10 (Wed.) Last day to drop a class (grade of DR) or withdraw (grade of W)
- April 19 – April 20 (Fri. – Sat.) Easter Holiday. No classes.
- May 2 (Thurs.) Study Day. No classes.
- May 3 – 9 (Fri. – Thurs.) Final Exams
- May 10 - May 11 (Fri. – Sat.) Commencement Exercises
- May 13 (Mon.) Grades Due at 3 p.m.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Instructional/Research Methods:**
Research in laboratory, field work, lecture, discussion on published research paper, and PowerPoint presentations.

**Activities:**
*Laboratory/Field Research, and Homework Assignments:* Students are required to attend laboratory/field research work in every week **at least** 19 hours depend upon research work. Homework may be assigned with specific research topics as well as a due date and time.

**Expectations:**
- Be punctual and attend in lab/research discussions.
- Be attentive and participate in lab/research discussions.
- Be respectful to lab mates.
- Complete assignments on time.
- Achieve an average grade of ≥60% according to the grading basis (please see below)

**Grade Basis:**
1. Research performance: 50 points
2. Attendance: 10 points
3. Assignments: 30 points
4. Presentation: 10 points

**Total 100 points**
A missing assignment will be counted as zeroes in the overall grade computation. I reserve the right to adjust your grade for violation of the minimum expectations.

**Absenteeism:**
1. Each student will be placed on subject to a penalty of point off of their final grade for each unexcused absence in the laboratory/field research work. A tardy will count as 0.5 point per class of an unexcused absence.
2. Upon exceeding 4 unexcused absences, I reserve the right to administratively drop you from the course.

**Grading Policies:**
The following scale is adhered to strictly.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60 – 100%</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;60.0%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**COURSE SPECIFIC PROCEDURES AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

**Course Specific Procedures:**
- **Responsible Use of Technology Resources:** It is expected that all students will only use laptop computer, iPad, and other technology in class. Answering a cell phone, listening to music, texting, or using a laptop computer for unrelated matters to the course may be grounds for dismissal from class and/or other penalties. Students are not allowed to use video, nor audio recording devices of any kind during class time without prior consent of the instructor.

**Students with Disabilities:**
If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu.

**Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations**
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information and to request accommodations.

**Mandatory Course Evaluation Period:**
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Online evaluations will be available Nov. 15 – Dec. 5. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

**Attendance:**
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

**Scholastic Integrity:**
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism,
and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Violence:**
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at [www.utrgv.edu/equity](http://www.utrgv.edu/equity), including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**Course Drops:**
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

**Student Service:**
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:
- Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- Advising center: BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)

I have read and understand the information and UTRVG policies in this syllabus and will abide by those policies. **YES**, **NO**

If your answer is NO, please explain why or ask any questions:

Your name: ________________________________________________, Student ID: __________________________

Your signature: ________________________________________________, Date: __________________________

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