Course Number: MECE 6190-Spring 2017
Course Title: Graduate Engineering Seminar
Course Time/Place: Friday, 12:15 pm-1:05 pm, Eng, #1.274
Instructor: Dr. Mataz Alcoutlabi
Office/Phone: Eng. 3.262/(956) 665-8945
Office Hours: By appointment
Email: mataz.alcoutlabi@utrgv.edu
Website: http://faculty.utrgv.edu/mataz.alcoutlabi/

Textbook: No textbook required.

Prerequisites:
Students enrolled in Graduate level engineering.

Course Description
This one-hour seminar course is geared towards helping graduate students develop and improve their oral presentation skills and provide them with technical expertise in their field of study. The class will feature engineering presentations prepared by faculty and graduate students from various engineering disciplines and backgrounds. The students will meet for a weekly update on various research topics carried out here at UTRGV.

Learning Objectives
Students will gain experience in oral presentations by having the opportunity to present their work in front of an audience and by learning from other featured speakers. The Engineering Seminar will help graduate students to develop and improve their presentation skills and will provide them with a plus of technical expertise and research knowledge in their field of study or related fields. The experience gained from this seminar course will prove invaluable for students in their future careers as engineers, Ph.D. students and managers.

Course Outcomes
It will be demonstrated that the student:
1. Is able to use knowledge of mathematics, basic sciences and engineering to analyze (identify, formulate, and solve) problems in mechanical engineering.
2. Is able to design and conduct experiments and interpret the results.
3. Is able to design mechanical devices, systems or processes that meet given specifications.
4. Is able to function in multi-disciplinary teams.
5. Is able to communicate ideas effectively in graphical, oral and in written media.
6. Understands the professional responsibility of an engineer and how engineering solutions impact safety, economics, ethics, politics, and societal, cultural and contemporary issues.
7. Understands the need for life long learning to keep abreast of current practice.
8. Is able to use state of the art computational hardware and software for analysis, design and documentation (techniques, skills, and modern engineering tools necessary for engineering practice).

Presentation:
Students in their final semester before graduation must prepare and give an oral presentation. Students registered for Thesis option need to present their thesis research.
Student registered for the **Course option** should present a technical literature review. It is imperative that the review is comprehensive, generally including over 6 journal papers published in the last years on a specific research topic. Students should schedule their oral presentation in agreement with the Instructor by the first meeting of the Seminar when they should provide the title and topic for their presentation. During the presentation week, a hard copy of the presentation material should be submitted to the instructor. Student presentation should be for at least 25 minutes followed by 5 to 10 minutes of Questions and Answers. Oral presentations will be graded by three faculty members from the ME department. The grading will be based on the technical content, organization, quality of presentation materials, speaking style/effectiveness, and knowledge of the research topic demonstrated by the ability to answer questions.

Students are encouraged to collaborate with their colleagues and with faculty and also to use the knowledge gathered during their Master's program courses; however, the students must submit the outcome of their own intellectual effort to demonstrate their current understanding of the research topic. Throughout the course activities, the students must maintain clear academic integrity.

**Grading Policy:**

Attendance: 5%

Oral Presentation 95%

**Final grades are assigned according to the following grading policy:**

- 90 and above: **A**
- 80-89.9: **B**
- 70-79.9: **C**
- 60-69.9: **D**
- 59.9 and below: **F**

**Attendance:**

1. Attendance will be taken every time the class meets. Any student arriving to class 5 minutes after the class has started will not be allowed in class. Students will be allowed a maximum of **one absence for the whole semester**. Five points will be deducted from the total (100%) for the absence exceeding the maximum allowable unless documentation justifying that absence is provided.
2. Students will not be permitted to leave the classroom during presentation except for **extreme emergencies**.

**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.

**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.

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, 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.

Mandatory Course Evaluation Period:
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (https://my.utrgv.edu/home); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Online evaluations will be available April 12, 2017-May 3, 2017. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

Drop Policy:
Students can withdraw from a course through the Office of the Registrar on or prior to:
- January 30, 2017, Monday: Last day to drop a class before it appears on the transcript and counts toward the “6-drop” limit. Last day to receive a 100% refund for dropped classes (other policies apply when a student is withdrawing from all classes).
- April 13th, 2017, Thursday: Drop/Withdrawal Deadline; last day for students to drop the course and receive a “DR” grade. After this date, students will be assigned a letter grade for the course that will count on the GPA.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF SYLLABUS

By signing below, I hereby affirm that I have received a copy of the syllabus for MECE 6190-Engineering Seminar and have been informed by the Instructor that it is my responsibility to carefully read and understand this document and abide by all its content.

________________________________________
Student ID Number

________________________________________
Printed Name

________________________________________
Signature

________________________________________
Date