

## Syllabus and Course Description

### SIE 694 Doctoral Seminar

#### Course Description

This course advances the dissertation work of SIE doctoral students and PhD candidates. Students will work as peers to review each other's progress with dissertation writing. Advancements over the last 12 months will be presented as poster and in a seminar talk, in order to maintain the momentum on making progress with the dissertation writing.

**Credits:** 1

**Prerequisite:** SIE 501, SIE 502, and SIE 693

**URL for Course:** forthcoming

#### Faculty Information

Team-taught by SIE graduate faculty

#### Office Hours:

Office hours for this course are announced at the beginning of the semester. Alternatively, contact the instructor.

#### Instructional Materials:

##### 1. Computers:

Each student is required to have a laptop, which will be used in class for hands-on exercises during class (any platform is ok). Distant students need fast Internet connection to participate live (e.g., via Zoom).

##### 2. Textbook:

none

#### Course Goals:

- Continue team-building among SIE doctoral students
- Student-initiated feedback on dissertation writing
- Keep momentum on advancing the intellectual content of the dissertation
- Complementary guidance to the usual directing by thesis advisor
- Expand the students' background knowledge with relevant articles in the field that appeared over the last 12 months

#### Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- have a better polished chapter of their dissertation
- know how to communicate best the essence of their intellectual contribution
- received constructive feedback on their hypotheses and their approaches
- have learnt how to critique constructively their peers

## 1. Course Schedule

This 1-credit course will be offered each Spring semester (contact time: once a week 50 minutes for the entire cohort). It builds on the experiences students gained from the 1-credit course sequence SIE 501 (Introduction to Graduate Research), SIE 502 (Research Methods), and SIE 693 (Graduate Seminar) taught over three semesters, reinforcing and applying presentation skills. Once students have completed this course sequence, each SIE doctoral student and each PhD candidate will annually take the doctoral seminar. Students who are not in residence will need to participate live via distance technology (e.g., Zoom). All sessions will be recorded so that any student who occasionally misses a class can catch up.

Week 1	Introduction and overview Assignment of recent publications for review and assessment
Week 2	Distribution of latest dissertation chapter to peers and 3-minute summary presentations
Week 3	Discussion of first set of assigned publications
Week 4	Presidents Day, no class
Week 5	Peer-review of latest dissertation chapters (first three students)
Week 6	Discussion of second set of assigned publications
Week 7	Peer-review of latest dissertation chapters (remaining students)
Week 8	Spring Break, no class
Week 9	Review of and discussions about poster design on latest dissertation findings (must be different from 12 months ago)
Week 10	Group review of material for seminar talk (first three students)
Week 11	Group review of material for seminar talk (remaining students)
Week 12	Rehearsals of poster presentations
Week 13	Presentation of posters at UMaine's Student Symposium
Week 14	Seminar talk on dissertation progress over last 12 months

## 2. Grading and Course Expectations

As a graduate level course, you are expected to exhibit high-quality work that demonstrates sound understanding of the concepts and their complexity. Earning an "A" represents oral and written work that is of exceptionally high quality and demonstrates superb understanding of the course material. A "B" grade represents oral and written work that is of good quality and demonstrates a sound understanding of course material. A "C" grade represents a minimally adequate completion of assignments and participation demonstrating a limited understanding of course material. This class has no exams; only homework and/or project assignments. Active live class participation (virtual or on-campus) is expected and may take the form of active participation in the live class sessions or regular participation in virtual office hours with the instructor with at least one time each week meeting the schedule needs of all students.

*Grading criteria:*

Homework assignments (programming, presentations) – 70%

Active participation – 10%

Final Project (programming project and presentation) – 30%

*Policies:*

Students are expected to attend all class sessions (in person or virtual).

Late assignments will result in 10% deduction in grade.

**Standard Syllabus Notices**

- [Important Disability Notice](#)
- [Academic Honesty Notice](#)
- [Nondiscrimination Notice](#)
- [UMaine Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Classroom Civility](#)
- [Sexual Discrimination Reporting](#)
- [Course Schedule Disclaimer](#)
- [Contingency Plans in the Event of an Epidemic](#)