MEMS Seminar Attendance Policy for Fall 2020

8-31-2020

All full-time graduate students are required to register and pass MEMS 501 – graduate seminar in order to fulfill their degree requirements in every semester until graduation. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic with reduced campus capacity and travel restrictions, all seminars will be held virtually. **Synchronous participation is recommended**, so that students have the option to ask the speaker questions. All seminars will also be recorded and uploaded on the class Canvas page, though, for students with a time conflict.

Due to the virtual arrangement, we no longer offer this class by attendance only; instead, students have to write a **200-300 word summary** and submit it via Canvas. For technical presentations (including PhD student presentations), the summary should briefly address the following questions:

1) What technical or scientific question did the speaker address and what is the importance?
2) What was the research approach (techniques, methods, ...)?
3) What is one significant innovation or finding?
4) What are the next steps (as outlined by the speaker), or what do you think are interesting follow-up research questions?

For non-research seminars (e.g., professional development), you should discuss in your summary what you will take away personally from the presentation. This could include specific action items you want to pursue, or specific information that will help you as you continue your journey during your studies and after graduation.

As of the day that this document was written, there are 8 seminars planned this semester; students need to submit summaries for a **minimum of 5 seminars**. Note that copy-pasting the seminar announcement does not count towards the “summary.” Students are also not allowed to collaborate on these assignments; every student has to submit their own, original work. As all seminars will be recorded and available “on demand”. Please note that it is not allowed to download and share the seminar recordings outside of this class! Only MEMS seminars count towards the attendance requirement, i.e., students cannot attend seminars in other departments and have them count for credit in this class.

For any questions, please contact Dr. Weisensee via email (p.weisensee@wustl.edu) or post a question in the Canvas discussion board.