
SIE 695A – Fall 2025

Graduate Seminar

Thursdays

02:00 – 03:15

<https://d2l.arizona.edu/d2l/home/1663860>

INSTRUCTOR

Mohammed Shafae; shafae1@email.arizona.edu; ENGR 317

Office Hours: Schedule by e-mail.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Graduate Seminar meets in-person once a week where guest speakers from different Systems and Industrial Engineering (SIE) related domains are invited to present their research work. Additionally, seminars about other relevant topics to graduate students such as university library resources, how to improve your technical writing, the ethics of conducting research among other topics will be presented.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This seminar course aims to expose PhD students to a wide variety of SIE related research. This helps new graduate students gain insights to a wide range of research problems and how experienced researchers tackle those problems in their research work. Additionally, students will learn about relevant campus resources and other topics to boost their research capabilities.

COURSE POLICIES

Students are responsible for all the policies below and for any announcements, assignments, or changes to the syllabus that are announced in class, by e-mail, and/or posted on D2L.

Class Attendance and Absence

- **All on-campus students are required to attend the seminars in person.** You are required to sign up for each class on the sign-up sheet available in the classroom.
- **All online students are required to FULLY watch the seminar recordings. A Zoom link will be provided to online students for optional live attendance of the class.** Live attendance of the class is highly recommended for better engagement with the seminar speakers.
- While you will not receive any points for just attending the class, you will not be allowed to submit the weekly assignment for the class you miss in-person or one you did not FULLY watch online if you are an online student. More details about that in the Homework Assignments policy section below. Your two lowest scores for two classes during the

semester will be dropped. This means you can skip two classes and do not submit any assignments for them with no penalty.

- Our seminars will start promptly at 2 PM so please plan to be in the room before that to avoid interrupting our guest speakers once they start.
- The UA's policy concerning Class Attendance, Participation, and Administrative Drops is available at: <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/class-attendance-participation-and-administrative-drop>.
- The UA policy regarding absences for any sincerely held religious belief, observance or practice will be accommodated where reasonable, <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/religious-accommodation-policy>. The calendar of religious holidays can be found at <https://registrar.arizona.edu/calendar-religious-holidays>.
- Absences for groups of more than three students that are pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean Designee) will be honored. See: <http://policy.arizona.edu/employmenthuman-resources/attendance>.
- Non-attendance for any reason does **not** guarantee an automatic extension of due date or rescheduling of examinations/assessments.

Homework Assignment

Each class will have a D2L Discussion board, and you are required to:

1. Submit a seminar summary post reflecting on five key items presented in each seminar using the following instructions **unless other instructions are provided in D2L for specific seminars:**
 - a. For research seminars, you need to critique different aspects of the presented research such as how the researchers defined the research problem, their motivation, solution methods, the choice of the solution method versus other methods you think may have worked similarly or even better, the way they presented the results, and/or their conclusions. Please note that this SHOULD include your reflections NOT just a summary of what the speaker presented. This means you need to provide your insights (what you learned, what you would you have done differently, how the presented research methods can be useful to your research, etc.). For each of the 5 items you choose to cover, it is required that you provide a brief coherent paragraph not just discrete point.
 - b. For non-research seminars, specific instructions will be shared with the related discussion topic.
 - c. Your writeups must be original and not copied from any other source including the presenter's papers and website or even their talk's abstract. Turnitin plagiarism detection may be used to check your submission for plagiarism and your grade will be proportional to the plagiarism percentage given by Turnitin. Any clear and repeated plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students. See the resources CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY section below.
 - d. You are NOT allowed to use an GenAI tool to generate your reflections.

e. Seminar summary posts are due at 11:59 PM on the Monday following each seminar.

- Read other students' comments and reflections thoroughly and respond to two of them sharing your thoughts/reflections about what they shared as lessons they learned.
 - **These are due right before the following seminar on Thursdays at 2 PM.**
 - Please note you will not have access to other students' posts till everyone submit their original posts on Monday 11:59 PM.
 - Make sure your comments are deep and of value and not just high-level acknowledgement. For example, comments such as "Great Point", "Thank you for sharing", etc. will receive a zero grade.
- Please do not submit any of the above if you did not attend the class in person or FULLY watched the recording if you are an online student.
- Your two lowest scores for two classes during the semester will be dropped. This means you can skip two classes and do not submit any assignments for them with no penalty.

GRADING POLICY

Seminar Summary Post: 60%

Comments/Reflections on 2 other students posts: 40%

80% Completion Required for a PASS (P) grade in this course.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Our goal in this classroom is that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. You are also welcome to contact the Disability Resource Center (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations. For additional information on the Disability Resource Center and reasonable accommodations, please visit <http://drc.arizona.edu>.

CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See: <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity>.

The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism, available at <http://new.library.arizona.edu/research/citing/plagiarism>.

UA NONDISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

The University of Arizona is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination. In support of this commitment, the University prohibits discrimination, including harassment and retaliation, based on a protected classification, including race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information. For more information, including how to report a concern, please see <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>

Our classroom is a place where everyone is encouraged to express well-formed opinions and their reasons for those opinions. We also want to create a tolerant and open environment where such opinions can be expressed without resorting to bullying or discrimination of others.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

UA Academic policies and procedures are available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policies>

Campus Health

<http://www.health.arizona.edu/>

Campus Health provides quality medical and mental health care services through virtual and in-person care.

Phone: 520-621-9202

Counseling and Psych Services (CAPS)

<https://health.arizona.edu/counseling-psych-services>

CAPS provides mental health care, including short-term counseling services.

Phone: 520-621-3334

The Dean of Students Office's Student Assistance Program

<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-assistance>

Student Assistance helps students manage crises, life traumas, and other barriers that impede success. The staff addresses the needs of students who experience issues related to social adjustment, academic challenges, psychological health, physical health, victimization, and relationship issues, through a variety of interventions, referrals, and follow up services.

Email: DOS-deanofstudents@email.arizona.edu

Phone: 520-621-7057

Survivor Advocacy Program

<https://survivoradvocacy.arizona.edu/>

The Survivor Advocacy Program provides confidential support and advocacy services to student survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. The Program can also advise students about relevant non-UA resources available within the local community for support.

Email: survivoradvocacy@email.arizona.edu

Phone: 520-621-5767

SUBJECT TO CHANGE STATEMENT

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Students are responsible for all the policies above and for any announcements, assignments, or changes to the syllabus that are announced in class, by e-mail, and/or posted on D2L.