MSE 529: Hard Materials Seminar, Fall 2020

Instructors:
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Schedule:
Thursdays 4:00 pm–4:50 pm via Zoom,

Course Websites:
- Class schedule, slides, recordings, and gradebook: MSE529 on Compass
- Online discussion forums: MSE529 on Piazza

Objectives:
Students will be able to present their own scientific research to an audience of peers in an informative and accessible form. Furthermore, students will learn about contemporary materials science research projects from presenters that are already established in their professional careers.

Course Evaluation:
The seminar grade is based on attendance only. If you have more than 2 unexcused absences for the semester, you will receive an unsatisfactory grade. For those students that are scheduled to give a presentation, if you miss your presentation without notifying the instructors, you will also receive an unsatisfactory grade. Excused absences are for medical or professional reasons only, such as job interview, participation to conferences, or off-campus research activities. For more details about reporting absences see below.

Presentations:
We will alternate from week to week longer presentations from non-student presenters one week with two shorter student presentations the following week. During the dates with student presentations, selected graduate students enrolled in the PhD program will present a 12–15 minute research seminar. The schedule of the presentations for this semester is located at the end of this document. If you have been selected to present on a given day and you have a schedule conflict, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor well in advance so that your presentation can be rescheduled. All presentations will be delivered via Zoom, and questions for the presenter can be asked either directly by raising your hand and being called upon by the session chair (one of the instructors) or via the chat function of Zoom.

Grade Reporting:
All attendance will be determined from the Zoom participant list, and thus it will be important that you join the meeting either with your name or your netID. All attendance records will be stored on the Compass2g website. Any errors in grade reporting appearing on Compass2g must
be reported within 2 weeks of the due date of the assessment item or by the last day of class, whichever is earlier.

**Expectations:**
To succeed in this class you will need to:
- Attend class regularly and participate through thoughtful questions;
- Prepare and practice your presentation;
- Seek out help when you have trouble.

**Online Forum (Piazza):**
This class uses Piazza for all communication between the instructors and students. Please visit MSE529 on Piazza to register. The class link will take you to the current page at any time. Official class announcements will be sent via Piazza, so you must register with an email address that you regularly check. If you desire, you can post anonymously on Piazza or make a private post just to the instructors (this should be done rather than emailing the instructors directly). E-mails sent directly to the instructors will not be answered, unless the student has a serious matter that requires confidentiality beyond a private Piazza message to the instructor.

**Absences:**
Excused Absence Request Form: [https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/327570](https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/327570)

1. Excuses from assessments will only be given in the following circumstances:
   a. Illness
   b. Personal crisis
      (e.g., car accident, required court appearance, death of close relative)
   c. Required attendance at a professional activity or official UIUC activity
      (e.g., professional conference, job interview, off-campus research activities, etc.)
2. In all cases you must complete the online Excused Absence Request Form and upload a scan of the official written documentation explaining your absence.
3. In cases (a) or (b) please provide some form of documentation via the online form within 2 weeks of the due date of the missed assessment, but no later than reading day (December 10). In case of extended or unusual illness, late submission of excuse documentation will be considered. See Student Assistance Center.
4. On case (c) an official letter from the designated university official must be submitted via the online form at least one week prior to the due date of the missed assessment.
5. If you will not be able to present on your assigned date, you are required to notify the instructor as soon as possible so alternative arrangements can be made.
6. Notwithstanding the above, at the discretion of the instructors, you may be required to make up any excused work.

**Special accommodations:**
To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact their lecturer and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES, disability.illinois.edu) as soon as possible, and no later than September 5.
**Academic Integrity, Harassment, and Discrimination:**
You are bound by the [University Honor Code](#) in this course. Any violation of the Honor Code will result in disciplinary action. In addition, harassment or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated. Please report any concerns immediately to your professor.

**Changes to the syllabus:**
Changes may occur as deemed necessary by the instructors; they will be announced.