

# EOSC 515 (1) Graduate Seminar Course

## ***Rationale:***

This seminar style course is designed to allow graduate students in EOS to share their research (or proposed research) with graduate students from the whole department. This will encourage cross fertilization of research and camaraderie across the department by providing the opportunity for different research groups to interact. The seminars are open to all members of the department.

## ***Instructor:***

This will be a student led course. It will be supervised by a faculty member who is also responsible for assigning a final pass/fail grade.

## ***Course Details***

Credits: 1

Duration: one term, offered both terms

Hours/week: 1

Grading: pass/fail

To pass the course each student will:

- Give a 20-30 min presentation
- Evaluate presentations of fellow classmates
- Attend and evaluate 2 departmental colloquia
- Host another speaker

The student must successfully complete all four parts of the course to receive a pass.

At the first three meetings of the course students will discuss and practice some important dos and don'ts of presentation, how to introduce another scientist to an audience, and how to evaluate a research talk.

Throughout the term, each student is required to "host" another student to the audience and will also give one 20-30 minute research presentation. The content of this talk can be previous, current, or proposed research. Graduate students who are not enrolled in the course will be encouraged to participate as guest speakers. Each presentation will be followed by a 10 min discussion period. Each presentation given by an enrolled student will be anonymously evaluated by the remainder of the class. The evaluations will be collected and summarized for grading purposes and then forwarded to the presenter as written feedback. Points will be given based on the categories outlined in the evaluation rubric (an example of an evaluation rubric is attached to this outline). To pass the course a student needs to achieve a minimum of 14 points on average (adequate). If a student achieves fewer than 14 points he/she will be given a second opportunity to present **with the administrator of the course present.**

In addition to the graduate seminar course, each student enrolled is required to attend at least 2 departmental seminars and to analyse the presentation as discussed previously.

***Objectives:***

At the end of the course, the student will be able to

- generate a presentation of their own research suited for a general science audience within the defined time limits
- receive, evaluate and respond to critical questions regarding their research
- engage in critical analysis of orally presented work
- criticize the work of their peers in an effective and helpful way
- host a guest speaker

<b>Category</b>	<b>Excellent (4pt)</b>	<b>Good (3pt)</b>	<b>Adequate (2pt)</b>	<b>Inadequate (1pt)</b>
<b>Opening/Intro</b>	Clearly, quickly established the focus of the presentation, gained audience attention	Established focus by the end of the intro, but went off on a tangent or two. Gained audience attention	Audience had an idea of what was coming, but the intro did not clarify the main focus	Little or no intro, or intro unfocused such that audience did not know the speaker's main focus
<b>Clarity &amp; Organization</b>	Main points clearly stated and explained; well thought out background; logical, smooth organization	Main points clearly stated; background adequate; logical, smooth organization	Main points must be inferred by audience; background adequate; audience can follow presentation, but holes are evident.	Presentation jumps among disconnected topics. Main points unclear
<b>Content</b>	Content presented and analyzed in a thorough, interesting, knowledgeable, logical way. Key points clearly expressed and integrated with logical links. Presented appropriate & useful, forward-thinking insights.	Content presented and analyzed in an interesting, knowledgeable, way. Key points clearly expressed and integrated with logical links. Presented appropriate insights.	Content presented in an interesting way. Some key points linked, but others "hanging". Presentation lacks clear synthesis and insight.	Content patchy. Lacks specific important information. Little effort to synthesize key points.
<b>Style/Delivery</b>	Audience could see & hear presentation clearly, appropriate eye contact, gestures, and language. Effective pauses and verbal intonation. Effective transitions.	Audience could see & hear presentation clearly, appropriate eye contact, gestures, and language. Some pauses, verbal intonation, and transitions effective.	Audience could see & hear presentation. Presentation poorly timed. Speaker has hesitation or uncertainty.	Presenter spoke to the screen or mostly to one person in the audience. Difficult to hear and understand. Poorly timed. Presenter appears to have not practiced
<b>Visual Aids</b>	Well-selected, well-placed images and text. Figures clearly support ideas presented without extraneous info.	Well-selected images and text, not always well placed. Figures clearly support ideas presented. May have some extraneous info	Chosen images extraneous to presentation or marginally support presentation. Too much extra detail.	Chosen images and text marginally useful and poorly ordered. Too much extra detail. Lack of connection to topic.
<b>Summary</b>	Conclusions clearly stated. Summary integrated main points and brought the presentation to a logical & effective closure	Conclusions clearly stated. Summary integrated main points and brought the presentation to an appropriate closure	Summary shown but poorly explained by speaker. Audience has to summarize for themselves.	Summary non-existent or very abrupt. Lack of synthesis
<b>Addressing questions</b>	Questions handled with confidence and in a knowledgeable way. Speaker clearly demonstrated further depth of knowledge than just the information in his/her presentation.	Questions handled in a knowledgeable way but with some hesitation. Speaker clearly demonstrated further depth of knowledge than just the information in his/her presentation.	Speaker made a strong effort to answer questions, but lacked depth of knowledge beyond what he/she already presented.	Speaker lacked answers to obvious questions the audience would be likely to ask. Speaker struggles to link answer to content of presentation.

Use the rubric page to check Excellent, Good, Adequate, Inadequate for each of the categories.

Write comments below.

**PRESENTER** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Category</b>	<b>Excellent (4pt)</b>	<b>Good (3pt)</b>	<b>Adequate (2pt)</b>	<b>Inadequate (1pt)</b>
<b>Opening/Intro</b>				
<b>Clarity &amp; Organization</b>				
<b>Content</b>				
<b>Style/Delivery</b>				
<b>Visual Aids</b>				
<b>Summary</b>				
<b>Addressing questions</b>				

Commend (positive feedback):

Recommend (suggestions for improvement):