

FINAL RESEARCH REPORT

NRSC 651 (GRADUATE SEMINAR 3) MSc FINAL RESEARCH REPORT
NRSC 754 (GRADUATE SEMINAR 7) PhD FINAL RESEARCH REPORT
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCES, MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Semester: Fall 2023
Time: Thursdays, 10:05 am – 11:25 am
Places: Zoom, R3-048, B1-015, CINE Boardroom
Coordinator: Brian Driscoll (MS3-038; brian.driscoll@mcgill.ca)

Course description:

Graduate students in the Department of Natural Resource Sciences are required to give their research final report seminar towards the end of their program, after completing all other course and seminar requirements. This seminar is for students to present the main findings from of their research activities, with an emphasis on presenting the context of the research, main objectives, research methods and results, and a discussion of the implications of the results with respect to the larger research context.

Learning objectives:

1. Apply the lessons learned via the graduate seminar courses to a final research seminar
2. Present a complex, completed research project to a diverse audience in a concise and clear fashion.
3. Continue to develop evaluation skills and the use of constructive criticism via peer evaluation of the seminars

Evaluation (all elements required for course credit):

- A. Abstract: 10%
- B. Oral presentation: 90%

A. Abstract:

A maximum 110-word Abstract (plus 80-word bio) must be submitted on myCourses no later than one week before your scheduled presentation. The abstract should include introduction, hypotheses and objectives (or, problem and objectives), and proposed methodologies. **The abstract must be formatted** using the **Abstract_template_NRS.potx** template for PowerPoint available on myCourses (see example below). Once you create your abstract submit it to myCourses in **pptx format**: I can view pptx files online on myCourses but not potx files and I cannot fix typos in pdf versions. Try to keep your abstract file from getting too big (1-2 MB should be big enough), via watching the size (resolution) of images imbedded in it. Late submissions will be subject to late penalty of 10% per day (weekends included).

B. Oral presentation:

The oral presentation should include an introduction to your research topic, your hypotheses and objectives; or, problem and objectives, your results, a discussion of the results and conclusions. Make sure that methodologies used are explained well enough to reach a diverse audience as possible. Discussion of the results should include implications for your field of research and the ‘big picture’.

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Presentations for **MSc students** (NRSC 651) are expected to be **20 minutes** in length and will be followed by a five-minute question period, for a total of **25 minutes** (maximum).

Presentations for **PhD students** (NRSC 754) are expected to be **40 minutes** in length and will be followed by a five-minute question period, for a total of **45 minutes** (maximum).

Please use a 4x3 layout (16x9 is default in PowerPoint but not recommended) and include slide numbers.

The following tips are more useful for in-person than Zoom presentations but are worth thinking about regardless of the mode of delivery. When presenting, move away from the podium and interact with the audience, especially via eye contact. Try to use the entire width of the presentation area to interact with the whole class and interact with the presentation screen, not your computer screen: when you need to read from a slide, read it from the presentation screen not the computer. I do not recommend the use of on-screen presenter notes: they can anchor you to the podium and computer screen.

To explain figures (define axes, etc), point to items on the screen with your hand or a laser pointer, whether an actual laser pointer in your hand or the Zoom laser pointer tool. Do not use the computer cursor using the mouse – it is not easy to see, especially on a bigger screen in a classroom. Laser pointers are less useful on small screens in small rooms – if you can reach, use your hand to point things out.

Go over your presentation with your supervisor – indeed, run anything you do for this class (abstract, seminar, written proposal, poster) by your supervisor, and your peers i.e., never submit a first draft, never submit unreviewed work. Oral presentation grades will be calculated from the average grades provided by the professors in attendance.

Please remember that this is your final seminar COURSE (course requirement), not a seminar that represents your research in a complete, finished or final form. So, relax and tell the story as of the date of your seminar – you won't have all of your data, or analysis or something: don't worry about that! Your research will never be finished.

For PhD (especially but not exclusively) final seminars, you don't need to mention chapters, or break the talk down by chapters – that kind of organization works for a PhD defence seminar (which is not what this is). This course is not really to prepare you for the PhD defence but more for a “job talk”, and in those situations your chapters are not relevant to the audience. You can break a job talk down by published papers (ok) or themes (better). Indeed, only members of your committee (not the audience for this seminar) will actually see your chapters, so there is no need to mention them in any seminar. Tell the stories, blend chapters together or break them into more stories, as works naturally.

For PhD students, your 'final' seminar will be at your PhD defence, but that will be limited to 20 minutes. In NRSC 754, PhD students have 40 minutes to really get into it: to experience giving a longer talk, to develop your slide collection. For MSc students in NRSC 651, you will have a chance to tell the department about your research accomplishments and a decent chunk of time to tell your story – be proud of your work to date and don't worry if there is more to come, that's normal.

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Seminar attendance, evaluation and schedule:

Students are expected to attend and evaluate the seminar presentations of their peers. A seminar evaluation form (**Seminar_evaluation_form_F2023.docx**) is to be completed for each presentation attended and submitted on myCourses within 24 hours. When submitting your evaluations, please submit a separate one for each talk and name the file such that the filename begins with the speaker's surname (it can also include your surname, second). Please submit as a docx file (do not submit a pdf!). For example, if I just saw a seminar by Joe Duplantier, I would name my file as "**duplantier_driscoll.docx**" before submitting it to myCourses.

Oral presentation grades will be calculated from the average grades provided by the professors in attendance. It is very important that there are at least two professors at each seminar to provide grades (one must be your supervisor). Your **supervisor** must ensure that a second grader be present.

Confirm that the seminar slot from the preliminary schedule also works for your supervisor and then please send an email to me confirming this, along with the Zoom link (if not doing an in-person seminar).

Presentations via Zoom

Presenters will have the option to present via Zoom or in person. Zoom seminars for any particular session should be done in groups under one Zoom link: it is necessary to coordinate with the other students in your session. The suggested dates and times can be changed in consultation with your supervisor(s) and the course coordinator. We cannot have a large number of the seminars with conflicting times in the last couple of weeks of semester.

The course coordinator cannot attend all seminars and thus cannot host all Zoom sessions. You may set up your own Zoom link, but **it is recommend that the Zoom session be set up by professor**, as there are advantages to using the Pro Zoom licence (including unlimited meeting length). Please include your Zoom link on your Abstract, along with the other required information. I will distribute the Abstracts and updated seminar schedule on a weekly basis via email to all registered students and all NRS profs.

Schedule link:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/nrs/graduate-students/seminar/graduate-seminar-schedule>

Department of Natural Resource Sciences

Day, Date | Time

Zoom link

Title of Seminar

Presenter

Position, Affiliation

ABSTRACT: MAX 110 WORDS @ 11 pts. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Donec consectetur, sapien et scelerisque mattis, ante ante venenatis nibh, ac scelerisque urna dolor id purus. Suspendisse potenti. Sed tristique tellus vitae lacus. In mi enim, dictum sed, mollis sed, accumsan feugiat, justo. Praesent sollicitudin mi congue enim. Ut porta, augue ut volutpat semper, nunc nisl malesuada nisl, eu aliquet mauris lorem in turpis. Mauris malesuada. Curabitur bibendum. Maecenas vel tellus facilisis lacus euismod pharetra. Quisque cursus massa ut erat. Sed fermentum. Cum sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus. In consectetur sagittis mauris. Pellentesque sit amet nibh vitae velit ornare sodales. Aliquam libero ligula, porttitor.

Insert
illustrative picture

Insert
Presenter photo

Insert and information
about person,
eg PhD candidate, etc

BIO: MAX 80 WORDS @ 9 pts. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Donec consectetur, sapien et scelerisque mattis, ante ante venenatis nibh, ac scelerisque urna dolor id purus. Suspendisse potenti. Sed tristique tellus vitae lacus. In mi enim, dictum sed, mollis sed, accumsan feugiat, justo. Praesent sollicitudin mi congue enim. Ut porta, augue ut volutpat semper, nunc nisl malesuada nisl, eu aliquet mauris lorem in turpis. Mauris malesuada. Curabitur bibendum. Maecenas vel tellus facilisis lacus euismod pharetra. Quisque cursus massa ut erat. Sed fermentum.

INSERT CONTACT INFORMATION



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Statements required by McGill policy to be included in the course outline

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures” (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Accommodations for missed assessments during the term:

a. “Sickness/illness during the term:

Students currently in the province of Quebec seeking the support of a Local Wellness Advisor (LWA) can now secure an intake appointment by filling out the appropriate webform at <http://mcgill.ca/lwa>.

If you need to seek accommodation for in-course assignments, for medical or other health emergencies, please send medical documentation along with the filled out form for medical accommodation (<https://www.mcgill.ca/macdonald/studentinfo/undergrads/forms>) by email to the Macdonald Campus Student Affairs Office (saoadvisor.macdonald@mcgill.ca). When approved, the professor(s) will be notified by email to accommodate the student.

b. Non-medical:

It is at the discretion of the instructor to arrange accommodation for students who have missed in-term exams or due dates for non-medical reasons (e.g. travel constraints, slept in, etc.). Complicated cases can be directed to SAO.

c. Religious:

The Policy for the Accommodation of Religious Holy Days (https://www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/files/secretariat/religious_holy_days_policy_on_accommodation_of.pdf) applies to these situations. “Students are not to be penalized if they cannot write examinations or be otherwise evaluated on their religious holy days where such activities conflict with their religious observances.” A student seeking accommodation must contact the instructor at least 14 days in advance so that arrangements can be made.

“© Instructor generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.”