MSE 674: Honors Research

Professor: Dr. Pete Smith  
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Office: Hoyt 370  
Phone: 724-946-7299

Meeting Time: Tuesdays @ 2:30 PM  
Office hours: Consult posted schedule on office door, by drop-in, and by appointment.

Course description: Students enrolled in 674 are expected to conduct the honors research project that was previously approved through the MSE 662 proposal process. All experimentation, data collection, and data analysis must occur with close mentorship from the faculty member. The student and advisor will work together to direct the course of experimentation with the goal of producing sufficient results to begin writing an honors thesis in MSE 682.

Requirements:
- For every 1 semester hour of credit received, the student is expected to put in 2-3 hours per week. The last number in the course code indicates the number of credit hours.
- The student and faculty member will hold a weekly meeting to discuss progress towards the research aims. This meeting may begin with a written weekly status report from the student.
- Documentation of laboratory work is required to show proof of experimental accomplishments.

Student outcomes: (At the end of this course, the student should be able to...)
- Perform approved experiments, including adhering to all appropriate safety and waste disposal protocols.
- Collect relevant data from experimentation.
- Analyze data for relevance, accuracy, and precision.
- Adapt planned experimentation based on data analysis.
- Work independently in the laboratory.

Required materials: Journal articles, texts from previous courses, lab notebook, goggles

Course grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the student meets this criteria...</th>
<th>He/she will earn an...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exceptional progress towards project aims, comes prepared for weekly meetings, meets required hours</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory progress towards project aims, comes for weekly meetings, meets required hours</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aims are not met, weekly meetings poorly attended, lack of time commitment</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient progress made toward research aims and/or lack of communication from student to professor</td>
<td>F</td>
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*The +/- can be added to the grade if the student produces a variation of the stated criteria

Academic Integrity: The College’s Academic Integrity Policy (AIP) will be strongly enforced. Violations of the AIP include cheating, misconduct, plagiarism, and providing false information. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. The first citation for academic dishonesty will result in a zero grade for the specific assignment. The second citation will result in a failing grade for the course. All citations for academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of the College, in accordance with college policy. Details of the AIP can be found in the Westminster College Undergraduate Catalog.