

San José State University, College of Engineering
BME 291, MS Thesis/Project Preparation Seminar, Spring 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	C. Travis Rappleye
Office Location:	E 233
Email:	christopher.rappleye@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	As needed
Class Days/Time:	Fridays 3pm-5:45pm
Classroom:	E 339
Prerequisites:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Good standing (GPA\geq3.0) and classified status in the MS BME program2. Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement satisfied3. Petition for Advancement to Graduate Candidacy form submitted4. Thesis/project topic and SJSU research advisor identified by the first class session.

Course Format

This course requires mandatory attendance for all class sessions. Class participation is a requirement for this course as this is essentially the only opportunity BME graduate students have to be exposed to other research areas, which is a primary experience at other universities. Students are required to work very closely with their research adviser in order to meet the requirements.

Course Website

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. All communications relevant to the course will be sent out using the Canvas messaging system (Canvas email and announcement board). Students are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through Canvas to learn of any updates.

Course Description

This course is designed to assist graduate students in the development and completion of their Master's thesis/project research proposal and expose them to research projects being done by others in the BME program.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

The primary objective of this course is to prepare the student for thesis/project research. Secondary objectives are to provide training in written and oral technical presentation techniques and expose each graduate student to some of the other research projects in the BME department. The result of this course should be a complete thesis/project research proposal which includes scope and definition, time schedule for implementation, and evaluation by the Reading Committee. Among others.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Apply** fundamental knowledge of engineering, science, and statistics in order to develop a detailed research plan.
2. **Communicate** effectively in both oral and written formats.
3. **Demonstrate** the ability to adequately reference the research proposal to give credit to the ideas and data developed by other people
4. **Demonstrate** an understanding of the environmental, safety and economic impacts of the research on society.
5. **Develop** a comprehensive literature review using appropriate electronic search strategies.
6. **Demonstrate** the ability to collaborate with other professors, advisors and students knowledgeable about aspects of the research area in order to develop a comprehensive research plan.
7. **Demonstrate** a basic understanding of the use of statistics and design of experiments techniques in designing experiments and interpreting data.

Required Texts/Readings

None.

Library Liaison

Anamika Megwalu

Phone: (408) 808-2089

Email: anamika.megwalu@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a **minimum** of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus. Students who desire extra writing or oral presentation help should sign up for ENGR 90W or seek assistance from the [Writing Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter> located in Clark Hall Room 126.

In this course, each student is required to prepare three reports with two oral presentations:

1. **INTRODUCTION** report/presentation slides
2. **INTRODUCTION/LITERATURE REVIEW** report and oral presentation

3. **THESIS/PROJECT PROPOSAL** report and oral presentation

All written reports and materials submitted for this course must meet the following criteria and standards:

1. Be in grammatically correct English.
2. Be in conformance with SJSU's [M.S.Thesis Guidelines](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/gradstudies/thesis/index.html) found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/gradstudies/thesis/index.html>
3. Be in conformance with the BME Thesis Guidelines which can be found on the Canvas website.
4. No plagiarism.

All oral presentations for this course must meet the following criteria and standards:

1. Use appropriate presentation software such as Microsoft PowerPoint.
2. Have high quality presentation slides using color, backgrounds, animation and/or other state of the art graphics compatible with a LCD Projector.
3. Delivered on the date scheduled, unless "excused" and rescheduled. Exceptions will be granted only for genuine extenuating circumstances.
4. Be grammatically correct.

Reading Committee

The READING COMMITTEE should be selected in consultation with the SJSU research advisor. The READING COMMITTEE must attend the Proposal Presentation and the Final Thesis/Project Defense, upon completion of BME 298 and BME 299, as appropriate. Under no circumstances can the Proposal Presentation or Final Thesis/Project Defense proceed if any of the members of the READING COMMITTEE are not present. The READING COMMITTEE can change along the way as long as all of the members meet the criteria described below:

- For **thesis** students (Plan A), BME and University guidelines require that the READING COMMITTEE must consist of the following **three** members, at a minimum:
 1. The SJSU research advisor, who **MUST** be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member in the BME department.
 2. An additional SJSU faculty member, who can be a faculty member from any SJSU department, including lecturers.
 3. An industry/government organization representative, who has a Ph.D. in a related field or is a senior-level manager. If the work is being sponsored by a non-SJSU entity, it is expected that this person will be a representative of that organization.
- For **project** students (Plan B), BME guidelines require that the READING COMMITTEE must consist of the following **two** members, at a minimum:
 1. The SJSU research advisor, who can be a faculty member from any SJSU department (required).
 2. A SJSU faculty member, who can be from any department. If the research advisor is not from the BME department then the Reading Committee **MUST** have a BME faculty member
 3. An industry/government organization representative, who has a Ph.D. or is a senior-level manager. If the work is being sponsored by a non-SJSU entity, it is expected that this person will be a representative of that organization.

Submission Schedule

- (1) Students must assemble their Reading Committee by the **end of the third week of the semester** (Feb 8, 2019) and schedule their INTRODUCTION/LITERATURE REVIEW presentation.

Scheduling for the INTRODUCTION/LITERATURE REVIEW presentation will be **available on Feb 8, 2019**

- (2) The INTRODUCTION report /presentation slides must be submitted to the SJSU research advisor for approval **at least one week** prior to **the in-class submission date of Feb 15, 2019**. The SJSU research advisor must email the course instructor that the report /presentation slides are approved at least 24 hours before the start of the class in which this is due, i.e., (before 3:00 p.m. Feb 14, 2018)
- (3) The INTRODUCTION/LITERATURE REVIEW report /presentation slides must be submitted to the SJSU research advisor **at least two weeks** prior to **the scheduled class presentation**. The SJSU Advisor must email the course instructor that the report/presentation slides are approved at least 24 hours before the start of class on **the presentation date**. If the report, as delivered, is deemed acceptable by the advisor AND the BME 291 Instructor, the student will then proceed to the next report stage. If the report is not accepted, then the student will need to re-do this report until successful in gaining acceptance. It is NOT necessary for the Research Advisor or Reading Committee to be present in class during the INTRODUCTION/LITERATURE REVIEW presentation.

The approved INTRODUCTION/LITERATURE REVIEW report must be uploaded to the Canvas website by 3:00 PM on the Wednesday before the report is due, to check for plagiarism. Students are also required to submit this report to turnitin.com themselves. The relevant information is as follows:

Class ID: 27164

Class name: BME 291 Spring 2019

The BME 291 Instructor must be provided with a copy of the INTRODUCTION/LITERATURE REVIEW presentation slides at the beginning of the class session on the day of the presentation.

- (4) Students must consult with their Reading Committee and schedule their THESIS/PROJECT PROPOSAL presentation by **the end of the sixth week of class (March 8, 2019)**. **Please submit three date/time combinations on which both the adviser and committee member(s) are available.**

The THESIS/PROJECT PROPOSAL report /presentation slides must be submitted to the SJSU research advisor **at least two weeks** prior to the scheduled class presentation. The SJSU research advisor must approve the Thesis/Project Proposal **before** it is sent to the Reading Committee. This should be done at least one week prior to the scheduled presentation so that the Reading Committee members have sufficient time to review the document.

- (5) The approved THESIS/PROJECT PROPOSAL report must be uploaded to the Canvas website by 3:00PM on the Wednesday before the scheduled THESIS/PROJECT PROPOSAL presentation to check for plagiarism.

All members of the student's Reading Committee **MUST** attend the THESIS/PROJECT PROPOSAL presentation.

All Reading Committee members and the BME 291 Instructor must be provided with a copy of the THESIS/PROJECT PROPOSAL presentation slides prior to the beginning of the presentation.

The decision for acceptance of the oral and written proposal will normally be made by the Reading Committee in a meeting following the oral presentation.

Advice on paraphrasing/avoiding plagiarism

Some students plagiarize unintentionally because they do not use proper paraphrasing. Plagiarism is copying anything directly (verbatim) from another source, whether referenced or not. You need to take a concept and completely re-write it in your own words and style and then reference the location as the source of the concept. Generally, in the engineering profession, it is not an acceptable practice to put in quotes anything directly from another source and reference it as such. Changing a word or two in a sentence is not paraphrasing. Plagiarism, and any other form of, cheating will not be tolerated, leading to a minimum penalty of an NC for the particular assignment and, given the circumstances, an NC for the entire course. Students must complete the interactive library plagiarism tutorial and test found at

<http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/index.htm>.

and **provide evidence of having successfully completed this by Feb 8, 2019.**

Grading Information

The grades that are assigned for this class are CR/NC. Class credit will be based on participation by the student in all class meetings, timely completion of course assignments, and the approval of all reports. Students receiving a grade of NC will be required to take this course during the subsequent semester with full participation.

Classroom Protocol

(1) Attendance and arrival times

Students are expected to be set up and ready by the time the class begins.

(2) Behavior

Students should remain respectful of each other at all times. Interruptive or disruptive attitudes are not acceptable. While in the classroom, the use of electronic devices (laptops, tablets, smartphones) should be limited to activities directly related to the learning objectives. They should not be used for personal communication, included messaging and use of social media. **All cell phones must be silenced prior to entering the classroom.**

Students will respect a diversity of opinions, ethnicities, cultures, and religious backgrounds. Students will treat online discussions with their peers as if they were in-class, face-to-face interactions.

(3) Safety

Students should familiarize themselves with all emergency exits and evacuation plans. Especially since class concludes in the evening, when departing the building, students should be aware of their surroundings, and carry a cell phone.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

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Course Schedule; Room 339

(subject to change with fair notice)

Date	Topics, Assignments Due	Readings/Instructor
Jan 25	Class Organization Prerequisites and Course Information Prerequisites Checklist due Thesis/Project Tentative Title and SJSU Research Advisor due	Course Syllabus SJSU Master's Thesis Guidelines BME Master's Thesis Guidelines
Feb 1	Literature Review Content and Oral Presentation Slides Plagiarism Test Results due Prerequisites Checklist due	
Feb 8	Proposal Content, Budgeting, Scheduling Intro/Literature Review Presentation Scheduling requests Thesis/Project Reading Committee names and affiliations due Download SJSU Thesis Guidelines	
Feb 15	Data Analysis and Design of Experiments DOE In-Class Assignment Introduction Report and Slides due Verification that SJSU Thesis Guidelines have been read	
Feb 22	3:00 p.m.: Library Search Tools Workshop (MLK 217)	Dr. Anamika Megwalu
Mar 1	No class Proposal Defense Scheduling requests	
Mar 8	TBD	
Mar 15		
Mar 22		
Mar 29		
Apr 5		
Apr 12	TBD	
Apr 19		
Apr 26		
May 3		
May 10		