

IBMS 7099-5MIM

Dissertation

COURSE DIRECTOR: Nu Zhang, Ph.D.

Faculty: Faculty serving as supervising professors

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

EMAIL: zhangn3@uthscsa.edu

TELEPHONE: 567-3973

READ THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY - YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS CONTENTS.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to allow graduate students time to write their doctoral dissertations, and to receive guidance from their Dissertation Supervising Committees. Registration in IBMS 7099 is only permitted following a student's admission to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree, approval of the dissertation research proposal and approval of the membership of the candidate's Dissertation Supervising Committee. A candidate for the Ph.D. degree must register for the Dissertation course for at least two semesters.

In light of the diverse and evolving objectives of various research projects pursued by each individual graduate student, no specific details for accomplishing the expectations of this course can be delineated. However, the broad objectives of this course include the writing of a dissertation document that demonstrates:

- **Scientific Advances.** In general, each student is to describe investigations that result in scientific advances in the student's chosen field of interest. The ultimate goals are 1) to prepare and defend a written dissertation that details the findings of the student's investigation, and 2) to publish significant findings in peer-reviewed journals.
- **Novelty and Scholarship.** Research will be described that is novel, scholarly, and adheres to all safety and ethical guidelines mandated by the UT Health San Antonio and any associated federal and state regulatory and funding agencies. An acceptable research dissertation will demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the scientific literature, including published findings of other investigators that are directly and indirectly related to the student's own research project.
- **Research Committee Approval.** The research conclusions and writing quality of the dissertation will meet the expectations of both the student's supervising professor and the student's dissertation supervising committee.
- **Timely submission.** All specified deadlines for submission of the dissertation document will be met, and all required paperwork will be filed with the Dean's Office.

ATTENDANCE

In order to achieve the expected level of competency and progress, students must be fully engaged. Therefore, attendance required for the timely writing of the student's dissertation should be consistent with the student's Milestones Agreement, agreements stated in the Student-Mentor Compact, and expectations stated by the student's supervising professor and dissertation supervising committee.

GRADING POLICIES

Each semester, a grade of Unsatisfactory (U) or Satisfactory (S) or Honors (H) is given for dissertation work (IBMS 7099). Satisfactory research/academic progress, and the grade for IBMS 7099, reflects a student's adherence to the expectations of the IBMS Graduate Program, the III discipline, and the Student-Mentor Compact and Milestones Agreement, as well as expectations stated by the student's supervising professor and dissertation supervising committee. This includes satisfying programmatic requirements, filing required forms and documentation, and progressing through the program according to the expected timeline.

Each semester the student's Supervising Professor will recommend to the Discipline Director that an "H" or "S" or "U" be given for IBMS 7099. This determination is made in consultation with the student's Dissertation Supervising Committee via reports of committee meetings submitted each semester and based upon the student's overall progress in writing the dissertation. Together with administrative requirements mentioned above, the final grade for IBMS 7099 will be determined by the Discipline Director.

Failure to demonstrate writing progress and timely submission of the research dissertation will result in the posting of an Unsatisfactory (U) grade for IBMS 7099 (Dissertation). A student who receives an Unsatisfactory (U) for IBMS 7099 will not be allowed to apply that semester to the two semester requirement. A student who receives two "U"s for IBMS 7099 may be considered for dismissal from the IBMS Graduate Program.

REQUESTS FOR ACCOMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES

In accordance with HOP policy 4.2.3, **Request for Accommodation Under the ADA and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA)**, any student requesting accommodation must submit the appropriate request for accommodation under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA, form 100) to the appropriate Associate Dean. In addition, the Course Director should be notified once the paperwork is filed. Additional information may be obtained at <http://uthscsa.edu/eeo/request.asp>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONALISM

Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to discipline as prescribed by the UT System Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, the submission of experimental data known to be false, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such an act. Additional information may be obtained at

<http://catalog.uthscsa.edu/generalinformation/institutionalpolices/studentconductanddisciplinepolicy/>

TITLE IX AT UTHSCSA

Title IX Defined:

Title of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education. It reads "no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio's Commitment:

University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio (UTHSCSA) is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discriminatory conduct based on gender. As required by Title IX, UTHSCSA does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs and activities, and it encourages any student, faculty, or staff member who thinks that he or she has been subjected to sex discrimination, sexual harassment (including sexual violence) or sexual misconduct to immediately report the incident to the Title IX Director.

In an emergency, victims of sexual abuse should call 911. For non-emergencies, they may contact UPD at 210-567-2800. Additional information may be obtained at <http://students.uthscsa.edu/titleix/>

EMAIL POLICY

Every student is issued a University e-mail address and account at the time of enrollment. As a matter of University Policy, communications between students and faculty that occur using the student's University e-mail address is considered official business. Therefore, **students are expected to check their university email inboxes on a regular basis** so that any announcements, instructions, or information regarding this course will be received in a timely way. Missed communications due to inadequate monitoring of incoming emails on the University's email server will never be a valid excuse for unsatisfactory academic progress.