NREM 5020 Graduate Seminar
(2015 Spring)
Instructor: Dr. Chris Zou
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Office Hours: Open door policy or by appointment
Meeting Time & Place: Fridays 8:30-9:30 am, Ag Hall 002

Description of Course

This is a one credit graduate course required for NREM graduate degree. All students enrolled in this course are required to give a research seminar in the weekly NREM graduate seminar series. Attendance at each seminar of the graduate seminar series is mandatory for all students enrolled.

Course Objectives
– To create an opportunity for NREM students to practice public speaking and receive formal feedback from peers, staff, and faculty;
– To hone skills that will improve effective seminar presentations in settings such as thesis/dissertation defense, professional meetings, or job interview;
– To facilitate formal interactions among graduate students, research staffs, and faculty members and promote academic exchange and feedback of graduate student research projects in the department.

Course Format and Expectation
– Two lecture sessions focusing on why and how to give an effective academic seminar at the first two weeks;
– Student presentation in the NREM graduate seminar series (starting from the third week);
– Presentation is expected to have substantial content to facilitate in-depth discussion and feedback;
– Each student is expected to spend substantial effort in polishing and practicing his or her presentation as needed before the public seminar;
– All attendants of NREM seminars including NREM 5020 students will be given opportunity to provide written evaluation of seminars of NREM 5020 students by filling the peer-review feedback form.

Evaluation
– 20 points - Class attendance and participation in discussions;
– 80 points – Performance in seminar. Performance will be evaluated using statistics from peer-review feedback forms and instructor’s independent evaluation.
– Assignment of final grades is not based on any preconceived thresholds for letter grades, but roughly follows >90 points = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; <60 = F