

MRP/WPP Seminar Series

This mandatory non-credit course consists of a series of meetings in which students discuss how to develop their Major Research Paper (MRP) or Work Place Project (WPP) proposal, find the right supervisor in the specialization field, research their topic, and write their papers. Students present their proposals to fellow students as well as faculty.

The course is an MRP or WPP design and writing seminar/workshop/practicum. It provides students with an opportunity to draft their proposal and MRP or WPP in a collegial environment. It also provides them a chance to work closely with one instructor in developing the design, methodology, and theoretical approach of the MRP or WPP. Third, it gives students a chance for reflexive and dialogical space to interact and provide feedback on each other's projects.

To ensure successful and timely completion of the MRP, students are required to regularly attend the seminar series where they will be guided through deadlines and deliverables, share their ideas, and meet the faculty. Reading materials will relate to the issues mentioned above.

Course Pre-requisites/co-requisites: GS/MSMG6010 Quantitative Methods for Business and Management Research and GS/MSMG6020 Research Design and Qualitative Methods

Experiential Education Strategies: guest speakers, faculty visits, case discussion based on actual data

Mode of Delivery: hybrid (in-class sessions and asynchronous activities where students submit work and annotated feedback is provided)

Evaluation: Pass/Fail

Initial Instructor: Isha Sharma

Detailed Timeline/Deliverables:

Timeline	Seminar	Activity			
September	Seminar 0: Orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of MRP / WPP: guidelines, process and timelines • Introduction to area faculty / available supervisors and their area of expertise to facilitate selection of supervisors during the Fall 			
October / November	Workshops / Guest Lectures / multidisciplinary research seminars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty members from across disciplines present their current work and discuss the selection and application of overarching theories, and importance of research rigor. • Guest speakers from industry to shed light on practical problems needing attention • Conversations with students about their research interest and selection of supervisors 			
Timeline	Seminar	MRP Activity	MRP Deliverable	WPP Activity	WPP Deliverable
Late January	Seminar 1	<p><u>Mandatory:</u> Submission of Topic Motivation to do research Practical relevance of the proposed study Research Problem <u>Desired:</u> Specific Research questions Research Objectives</p>	<p><u>Presentation:</u> 5 slides covering the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - topic, - basis of topic selection, - motivation to do research, - Practical relevance of the proposed study, and - next steps / action plan <p><u>Word:</u> 1-2 pages (500 words) on research motivation / need for the study. Also, include a timetable of planned activities until the submission of the final document.</p>	<p><u>Mandatory:</u> Submission of Topic Company name and consent of industry mentor Motivation to do research <u>Desired:</u> Research objectives and questions</p>	<p><u>Presentation:</u> 5 slides covering the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - topic / company overview - Rationale for study, and - next steps / action plan <p><u>Word:</u> 1-2 pages (500 words) about the topic, company and rationale for the topic. Also, include a timetable of planned activities until the submission of the final document.</p>
<p>-----After making the changes recommended in seminar 1 students submit the proposal----- (Early February)</p>					
Late March	Seminar 2 <i>Introduction and previous research</i>	<p><u>Mandatory:</u> Introduction Research questions / objectives Overview of theoretical background / applicable framework <u>Desired:</u></p>	<p><u>Word:</u> 15-20 pages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction (include objectives / questions in the introduction) - Theoretical background / framework / literature review (published studies, review of similar studies) 	<p><u>Mandatory:</u> Introduction About the company and industry, formulation of the problem, scope Overview of theoretical background / applicable framework</p>	<p><u>Word:</u> 10-15 pages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction - About the company and industry (Structure, Players, Market Size, Market Shares, Competitive Positions, and any other data that can be disclosed) - Theoretical background / framework / literature review (published studies, review of similar studies)

		hypotheses / conceptual development Methodology		Desired: hypotheses / conceptual development Methodology	
Mid-May	Seminar 3 <i>Data and method</i>	Mandatory: Methodology with proposed rationale Data collection instrument, Sources of data, statistical tool for hypotheses testing (if applicable) Desired: Pilot testing results / preliminary findings	Presentation: (5-10 slides) Must include: - Research objectives/questions, theoretical framework / summary of literature review - Methodology and procedure - Sources of data - Action plan Word: (25- 30 pages) To the write up of Seminar 2 add methods/methodology adopted for the study: Analytical, Survey, Field Work or any other method with appropriate justification and reasoning	Mandatory: Methodology with proposed rationale Data collection instrument, sources of data, statistical tool for hypotheses testing (if applicable) Desired: Pilot testing results / preliminary findings	Presentation: (5-10 slides) Must include: - Research objectives/questions, theoretical framework / summary of literature review - Methodology and procedure - Sources of data - Action plan Word: 15- 25 pages To the write up of Seminar 2 add Methods/methodology adopted for the study: Analytical, Survey, Field Work or any other method with appropriate justification and reasoning
Late July	Seminar 4 <i>Pre-submission seminar</i>	Mandatory: Data Analysis Final recommendations and conclusion. Practical contributions/ implications/ limitations and future scope Submission of final draft	Presentation: <u>10-15 slides (15 minutes)</u> Analysis Discussion on findings, conclusions and key contributions and recommendations Whether the conclusions are in line with the objective Word: (35 – 45 pages) To the write-up of Seminar 3 add discussion on findings and results, a summary of results, practical and theoretical contribution, limitations and future scope, and References/Citations and Bibliography	Mandatory: Data Analysis Final recommendations and conclusion. Practical contributions/ implications Submission of final draft	Presentation: <u>10-15 slides (15 minutes)</u> Analysis Discussion on findings, conclusions and key contributions and recommendations Whether the conclusions are in line with the objective Word: (25 – 40 pages) * To the write-up of Seminar 3 add discussion on findings and results, a summary of results, practical contribution, challenges, recommendation to the organization, and References/Citations and Bibliography. The submission must not include proprietary data that has not been approved by the company to be released to the public.
----- After making the changes recommended in pre-submission seminar students submit the final report ----- (August)					

* The disclosure of proprietary data explains the difference in expected length of the MRP and WPP written documents.