Syllabus
Ph.D. Seminar I (90-901)
Fall, 2017

Class Meetings: Hamburg Hall 2108  Monday & Wednesday 9:00-10:20 am

Heinz College Seminars: Hamburg Hall 1002  Mondays 12:00-1:20 pm

Instructor:
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Office Hours: by appointment – email to schedule

Objectives: This seminar is intended for all first-year PhD students in the Heinz College to introduce the research process and bring first-year students into the intellectual community at Heinz. The seminar includes presentations by Heinz College faculty, student presentations of existing research, and presentations from second-year Heinz College students. Through these experiences, students will
• Become familiar with the kinds of research being done at Heinz
• Find faculty and students with similar research interests
• Understand the unseen steps (and missteps) along the way to a published paper
• Experience presenting technical research to a diverse audience
• Learn to provide helpful feedback on research presentations

Course Organization: The course consists of three main modules and an additional set of professional practice work.

1. Faculty Presentations

Heinz College faculty members will present one of their research papers to the class. These presentations will focus on the research process, rather than the product as one would in a standard research seminar presentation. The faculty will address how they developed the idea; how they implemented the research, including missteps and unforeseen challenges; how they decided how to present the work; and/or how they dealt with the publication process. These presentations are intended to expose students to the very diverse members of the Heinz College faculty so that they can see whose research topics and research approaches most interest them.

For each speaker, students will be expected to have carefully read the paper before class and to engage with the speaker during their guest lecture. Regular preparation and participation will determine the grading for this portion of the course.
2. Student Presentations

In the second portion of the course, students will present existing research papers to the class. The papers are drawn primarily from Heinz College faculty and reflect diverse approaches to producing research that has real-world impact on policy, business, and society. Your goal is to help your classmates understand 1) what is the research question being answered by the paper, 2) why is this question important, and who benefits from answering it, and 3) what do we learn from the paper that can influence policy, business, or society more generally.

These presentations will give students the opportunity to practice presenting technical research quickly and clearly to an interdisciplinary audience. The papers will help highlight the ways in which different styles of research can have real-world impact and will demonstrate how different fields emphasize different styles of research.

Students will choose a paper to present, subject to my approval, and presentations will last for 30 minutes. I will be available to help with presentation preparation. Your grade for this portion of the class will be determined by your performance in understanding and presenting the assigned paper, particularly in addressing the questions listed above.

3. Second-year PhD Student Presentations

In the final portion of the course, students in the second year of the Heinz PhD program will present their first paper research. This paper is due by the end of the second year, and the presentation to our Seminar is an important step in preparing for the formal presentation in the following semester. Your role will be to provide concise, clear, constructive feedback to each presenter within two days of the presentation. Working together with other students to improve research and presentations is an essential part of the graduate school experience, and this will be an opportunity to get started with that practice.

Your grade for this portion of the class will be determined by the quality and promptness of your feedback to the second-year students presenters.

4. Professional Practices

a. Attend all Heinz College Seminars (Mondays 12:00-1:20pm).

b. Provide a list of publication outlets and conferences that you plan to pursue during your graduate school career and beyond. This will be field- and topic-specific, so you will need to work with your advisor and other students to prepare this list.

c. Investigate and sign up for one or more table-of-contents or working paper series email alert services, relevant to your research area.
Policies:

Please turn off your cell phone while in the classroom (talk to me if you have a special situation requiring constant communication).

Attendance is required.

All materials related to presentations will be posted on the CMU Canvas website (www.cmu.edu/canvas). As speakers are assigned to specific dates, the schedule document on Canvas will be updated accordingly.