

MER 497 SENIOR PROJECT 1 — STUDENT ASSESSMENT

GRADING SCHEME

As your Senior Project Advisor, I will determine 88% of your MER 497 Senior Project 1 grade. This grade will be comprised of the following components:

- Project Plan (10%)
- Oral Progress Report (15%)
- Weekly Progress (40%)
- Written Progress Report (23%)

These items will be evaluated within the context of the following hierarchy (i.e., item 1 > item 2):

- (1) Achievement: What results or accomplishments came out of the project?
- (2) Progress: Even if specific achievement goals were not met, did the project consistently move forward due to your efforts?
- (3) Communication: Did you effectively communicate the progress and results of your project to your project advisor, other students and the department?
- (4) Growth: Regarding mastering technical aspects, developing a work ethic, developing project management skills and independence, did you learn from the project?
- (5) Effort: Regardless of the effectiveness of the effort, did you devote a minimum of 10 hours per week to the project?

The MER 010 Senior Seminar Instructor will determine 12% of your MER 497 grade from the following components:

- ✓ weekly attendance at MER 010 seminars during Spring term of Junior year (2%),
- weekly attendance at MER 010 seminars during term of concurrent registration in MER 497 (2%),
- ✓ completing Project Selection Form by deadline (4%),
- ✓ posting single sheet description in department display case by deadline (2%) and
- creation by deadline and weekly maintenance of project web site (2%)

GRADING SCALE

Grades will be determined using this scale:

Range	Grade	Range	Grade	Range	Grade	Range	Grade
93 - 100	A	87 - 89	B+	77 - 79	C+	60 -69	D
90 - 92	A-	83 - 86	B	73 - 76	C	0 - 59	F
		80 - 82	B-	70 - 72	C-		

COMPONENT DESCRIPTIONS AND DUE DATES

Project Selection Form *due 5 pm Wednesday of fifth week of term of MER 010 during Junior year*

Includes listening to faculty presentations on their research interests and opportunities (student generated research projects are encouraged but must be fully developed); arranging to meet with faculty members with overlapping interests; completing the Project Selection Form per the instructions; and handing it in to your MER 010 Instructor by the deadline.

Project Plan *due 5 pm Monday of second full week of MER 497 term*

Includes developing and preparing a detailed project plan. This plan must include a review of the relevant literature; the objectives and expected results of your project; how the expected results would integrate into existing knowledge; the materials and methods you will use to achieve your objectives and results including design, experimental (including data acquisition and reduction), computational and analytical methods; a timetable for completing specific objectives; and a proposed budget (an Internal Education Fund (IEF) proposal must be prepared in an attempt to obtain funding for your project).

Display Case Description *due 5 pm last day of term of MER 010 during Junior year*

Includes creating and placing a landscape-format color "slide" with your picture, project title and brief description (50 words maximum) of your project into the display case near NWSE 205 by the deadline.

Web Site Creation *due 5 pm Friday of first full week of MER 497 term*

Includes creating a quality web site by the deadline and updating the site as new information becomes available (at least weekly).

Weekly Progress *weekly during MER 497 term*

Includes participating and presenting at weekly meetings with your Project Advisor and other group members; updating and maintaining your web site updates; maintaining your project notebook; managing your project budget; and establishing, meeting and updating your weekly objectives.

Oral Progress Report *last week of MER 497 term*

Includes signing up for, preparing and giving an oral presentation to the department and other interested parties and posting presentation material onto your web site.

Written Progress Report *due 5 pm last day of MER 497 term*

Includes writing a technical report and turning it in to your Project Advisor by the deadline. A well written Project Plan should serve as an excellent draft on which to expand to create this report.