

# EE 6971 Special Problems / EE 6991 Research Seminar (Spring 2016) Course Syllabus

**Instructor:**

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**Class Meeting Time:** 2:00-2:50PM (Fridays)

**Class Location:** EB 2.04.02 (some talks may use a different location)

**Office Hours:** 4:00 – 6:00PM (Mondays and Wednesdays) or by appointment.

**Website:** All class materials will be handled electronically through Blackboard Learn.

**Course Catalog:**

- **EE 6971 Special Problems. (1 to 3 hours credit.)** An organized course offering the opportunity for specialized study not normally or not often available as part of the regular course offerings. Special Problems courses may be repeated for credit when topics vary, but not more than 6 hours, regardless of discipline, may be applied to the degree.
- **EE 6991 Research Seminar. (1 hour credit.)** Organized research lectures and seminar presentations. The grade report for this course is either “CR” (satisfactory participation in the seminar) or “NC” (unsatisfactory participation in the seminar). This course may include a written component. May be repeated for credit, but not more than 1 hour will apply to the Master’s degree, regardless of discipline.

**Prerequisite:**

- Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

**Course Contents:**

- Research seminars in various ECE areas, presented by UTSA faculty and invited external speakers, e.g., professors from other universities and experts from industry.
- Talks given by UTSA Services, Offices, or staff members on specific topics, e.g., academic writing skills.
- The instructor will try to post the presentation slides, if they are available.
- Agenda will be announced on department website:  
<http://ece.utsa.edu/about/seminar.html>  
and the instructor’s own seminar page (most updated):  
<http://engineering.utsa.edu/~lideduan/seminar.html>  
Posters will be available at least one week prior to the seminars.

## Evaluation Criteria

- Attendance.
  - **A student cannot miss more than 2 talks.**
  - For each class, sign-up sheets will be passed and signed. If a student signs on the sign-up sheet, he/she must be present during the entire class.
- Summary reports.
  - Each PhD student is required to submit **6 reports**, and each MS student is required to submit **3 reports**.
  - Each report should be **0.5 - 1 page long**, summarizing a **research talk** (not talks given by UTSA staff) that the student attended, in the student's own words. Typically, there will be at least 9 to 10 research talks (clearly indicated by the instructor) each semester. **Please plan carefully for your report submissions.**
  - If a student decides to turn in a report for a certain research talk, this report needs to be submitted in Blackboard Learn **before the next week's class**. "Make-up" reports won't be accepted. The instructor will announce class attendance and report submission status on a weekly basis.
  - Each report should at least address the following questions: What's the problem the research tries to solve? What's the approach of the research? What's the novelty (difference than prior work) in the research? What's the impact of the research? Etc.
  - A report will be accepted if it follows the above requirements. For a report that is not acceptable, the instructor will reply to the student and ask for a revision; if the revised version is still not acceptable, this report will not count.
- Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions (during and after the presentation), and interact with the speaker after the presentation.

## Grading Policy:

- PhD students (registered under EE 6971) will receive a letter grade; MS students (registered under EE 6991) will receive a Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) grade.