Middle Georgia State University

School of Computing
Department of Information Technology

SECTION 1 - GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title:	Doctoral Research Project
Course Prefix and Number:	ITEC 8900
Course CRN#:	22243
Semester & Session:	Spring 2023 – Full Semester (Terms I & II)
Campus Location:	Online
Meeting Days:	This course will be conducted completely online
Meeting Time:	This is a doctoral-level course and will be conducted completely online in an asynchronous format. Access via D2L Course Shell

INSTRUCTOR'S INFORMATION

Name:	Dr. Neil Rigole, Chair & Associate Professor
E-mail Address:	Neil.rigole@mga.edu
Office:	PSC 306
Office Phone Number:	478-471-5760
Office Hours:	Available by Appointment

COVID-19 STATEMENT

The University System of Georgia (USG) continues to recognize COVID-19 vaccines and boosters offer safe, effective protection and urges all students, faculty, staff, and visitors to get vaccinated and/or boosted either on campus or with a local provider. We encourage our MGA community to adopt a self-care and personal responsibility approach to wellness as positive actions to protect self and others; each of us doing our part to keep the MGA community healthy and campus academics and activities thriving. We ask you to complete the self-report form if you have tested positive for COVID-19 and review the Quarantine and Isolation Calculator to determine the appropriate actions to take. Visit updated information at this website: https://www.mga.edu/coronavirus/

SECTION 2 - DETAILED COURSE INFORMATION

Course Prerequisite: Admission to DSc in IT program

Credit Hours: 6

Course Description: The doctoral research project is the last course in the program. Students will develop a research project that focuses on the creation of new knowledge.

Student learning outcomes: *Upon completing this course, students will produce a research paper based on their approved research proposal to be included* as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Doctor of Science in Information Technology degree.
The learning objectives are to
1) Design and conduct independent research that generates new knowledge.
2) Write a formal research report to include the introduction section, statement of the problem/opportunity, the purpose of the study, literature review, the research methodology, findings interpretations, discussion/implications of findings, conclusion, limitations, and recommendations for future research.
3) Develop a formal presentation of the research paper at the end of the course to engage in collegial discussion with peers and faculty during the face-to-face residency.

Topics:
- Title
- Introduction
- The problem or opportunity
- The purpose of the study
- Research hypotheses or questions
- Review of the Literature review
- Methodology
- Results
- Discussion of findings
- Implications of findings
- Conclusion, limitations of the study, and recommendations for future research

Required course materials: No text is required.
You will use the textbooks and handouts from previous courses (if needed).
Software: The student version of SPSS Statistical Analysis Software from the previous course(s) may be used for those conducting quantitative research. You may have to update your license for this software.

Technology Requirement: *The following will be used in this course:*
- Students are required to have access to a computer and the Internet. All assignments, the course schedule, announcements, course syllabus, course content, rubrics, and supplemental course materials are posted on the D2L Course Shell.
- We may use a computer webcam with a built-in microphone to participate in possible virtual meetings with the instructor and group members.
- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, & PowerPoint)

Library/Learning Resources: As a Middle Georgia State University student, you have complete access to GALILEO (Georgia Library Learning Online), a virtual library of licensed commercial databases. It provides access to over 100 databases indexing thousands of periodicals and scholarly journals. There are over 10,000 journal titles available in full text. Additional GALILEO resources include e-books, government documents, reference collections, and video databases. The Middle Georgia State University library also has a core collection with locally purchased resources to support this graduate course. Currently, the exclusive e-holdings for the M.S. in Information Technology graduate courses are as follows: e-Journals = 1,661 and e-books = 4,325.   The following are examples of online databases that support this undergraduate course. They are available to you through GALILEO

and/or institutionally funded subscriptions:

- ACM Digital Library
- Computer Source
- Computing (ProQuest)
- Academic Search Complete
- Research Library (ProQuest)
- Wilson Omnifile: Full-Text Mega Edition
- Google Scholar

SECTION 3 - COURSE ASSESSMENT INFORMATION
Overview of Grading

Excellent. The quality of work meets the doctoral requirements in both originality and mastery of the material. This is equivalent to an A grade.

Satisfactory. The work meets the minimum requirements. The work is short of excellence, and originality, and does not fully demonstrate mastery of the material. This is equivalent to a B grade.

Unsatisfactory: The work is deficient as the minimum requirements have not been. This is equivalent to an F grade. (Anything below a Satisfactory (B-level) is deemed to be a failing grade.)

Your grade for the semester will be determined by the following assessment of completed assignments. The letter grade for this course is based on the total points earned on all assignments.

Assignment(s)
There are three assignments:

Part 1 of the Research Paper
Includes the following:
- Research title
- The problem or opportunity
- The purpose of the study
- Research hypotheses or questions
- Review of the Literature review
- Methodology

(The above encompasses the entire approved research proposal with the expanded (not preliminary) review of the literature and the Methodology (convert the proposed methodology to the actual research Methodology).

Part 2 of the research paper
Includes the following:
- Analysis
- Results

Part 3 of the research paper
Includes the following:

- Discussion of findings
- Implications of findings
- Conclusion, limitations of the study, and recommendations for future research

	Weight
Parts 1, 2, & 3 in one single file (The Final Research Paper)	100%
Total Achievable Grade Points	100%

The following point scale will be used to calculate the final course grade. NOTE: A grade of B or higher is required to successfully complete this course:

- A: 90% - 100% – Excellent Work
- B: 80% - 89% – Satisfactory Work
- Below 80% – Unsatisfactory Work

SECTION 4 - INSTRUCTOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

General Guidance.

This syllabus is provided for general guidance on course activities and expectations. The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus in response to changing student needs or pedagogical circumstances. Changes are announced in class and posted in D2L/Brightspace.

SECTION 5 - TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE AND OUTLINE

Class/Date	Activities
Weeks 1 - 3 **Begins 01/11** Submit part 1 before 8:00 p.m. (US EST) on 1/29	• Preview the Approved Proposal • Syllabus Review Part 1 • Title (completed in the approved proposal) • Introduction (completed in the approved proposal – Expand/Improve if needed) • The problem or opportunity (completed in the approved proposal – Improve if needed) • The purpose of the study (completed in the approved proposal – Improve if needed) • Research question(s) or hypotheses (completed in the approved proposal) • Review of the Literature review (convert the **Preliminary Review of the Literature** in the approved proposal to the final **Review of the Literature**) • Methodology (convert the **Proposed Methodology** to the actual **Methodology**) **Important:** If you are conducting a quantitative research study, immediately begin collecting data. The data must be obtained from the subjects before the end of Week 3. Feedback for this part will be provided by your instructor.
Week 4 – 5 **Begins 01/30** Submit part 2 before 8:00 p.m.	Part 2 • Analyze data • Write the Results

(US EST) on 2/12	*Note: This submission must include the revised Part 1 (incorporating the instructor's feedback).*
Week 6 - 7 **Begins 02/13** Submit part 3 before 8:00 p.m. (US EST) on 2/26	Part 3 • Discussion of findings • Implications of findings • Conclusion, limitations of the study, and recommendations for future research *Note: This submission must include the revised Part 1 & 2 (incorporating the instructor's feedback). In addition, you will include an abstract (150 words) and a maximum of 5 keywords.*
Week 8 **Begins 02/27** Submit the complete draft research paper (Parts 1, 2 & 3 - incorporating the instructor's feedback) before 8:00 p.m. (US EST) on 3/12	*Note: This submission will be evaluated by your instructor and feedback will be provided.*
Weeks 9 - 10 **Begins 03/13**	Your instructor will send your **draft research paper** to an External Reviewer. Feedback for revision, improvement, etc. will be provided by the External Reviewer at the end of Week 10.
Week 11 - 12 **Begins 03/20** Submit the complete final research paper (Parts 1, 2 & 3 - incorporating the External Reviewer's comments/feedback) before 8:00 p.m. (US EST) on 4/2	Students will incorporate the External Reviewer's comments/feedback and submit the **final research paper** for additional evaluation (if any) by the instructor. *Note: The final research paper must follow the MGA's School of Computing Final Doctoral Research Paper – Formatting instruction.*
Week 13 **Begins 04/03**	Final improvement, etc. if necessary
Weeks 14 – 15 **Begins 04/10** Submit your Slide Presentation before 8:00 p.m. (US EST) on TBD	Produce a formal slide presentation of the final research paper to engage in collegial discussion with peers and faculty during the face-to-face residency.

May 8 - 12	Face to face Residency & Commencement

SECTION 6 - COURSE EXPECTATIONS
EXPECTATIONS
Online courses are not self-paced and regular participation in online courses is required and will be recorded by your instructor. Students are expected to complete all course assessments using D2L.

Online learning assumes a high level of maturity and professionalism. It is designed to make learning more convenient but no less rigorous. The lack of a formal meeting schedule in an online course can be liberating. It can also be demanding because you must determine when to make time for class. Self-discipline and good time management skills are necessary when taking an online course.

Please remember that you will spend as much or more time completing an online course as you would taking it in a traditional face-to-face/classroom format. The special circumstances of taking an online course demand regular and consistent participation. Be sure to pace yourself throughout the semester making sure your responses to communications and assignments are timely. If you are not able to participate in any assigned class activities, you must contact your instructor immediately.

The instructor is required to report "no-shows" or students who do not show up on the first day of class. Therefore, all students enrolled in the course must verify their enrollment. This can affect financial aid and you may be dropped from the class. Your instructor will notify you as to how to verify your enrollment before the beginning of the term to ensure that you are not reported as a "no-show".

ATTENDANCE POLICY
Students whose number of absences is more than twice the number of class meetings per week may be assigned a failing grade for the course. Students who have more absences than the number of class meetings per week but less than twice the number of class meetings per week will be penalized on the participation portion of the grade. Students who have absences that are less than or equal to the number of class meetings per week will not be penalized. This policy holds for face-to-face and hybrid courses.

Students that do not submit any work for more than 14 consecutive days in an online course or partially online course may be assigned a failing grade for the course.

The MGA policy on attendance is found in Section 5.04.05 of the Faculty Handbook and in the Academic Catalog (https://mga.smartcatalogiq.com/2020-2021/Undergraduate-Catalog/Academic-Policy-and-Information/Course-Policies/Attendance-Policy).

CLASS BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS
Middle Georgia State University students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the MGA Student Code of Conduct." Student Code of Conduct, Responsibilities, Procedures, and Rights are found at

http://www.mga.edu/student-affairs/docs/MGA_Student_Handbook.pdf#page=45https://www.mga.edu/student-conduct/.

STUDENT WITHDRAWAL POLICY
Students are encouraged to read the withdrawal policy found at https://www.mga.edu/registrar/registration/drop-add.php before dropping/withdrawing from the class.

Students who wish to withdraw from the University must complete the Withdrawal Form, obtaining the required signature from the advisor, and submitting it to the Office of the Registrar at the Macon campus or the administrative offices at other campuses. Withdrawal is not complete until all withdrawal procedures have been properly executed. https://www.mga.edu/registrar/

Students may withdraw from the course and earn a grade of "W" up to and including the midterm date, which occurs on **March/15/2023.** After this date students who withdraw will receive a grade of "WF."

https://www.mga.edu/academics/calendars/index.php

POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

As a Middle Georgia State student and as a student in this class, you are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by **Middle Georgia State's Student Code of Conduct.**

Quoted directly from the Student Handbook, I believe it is important that you recognize and understand the following about plagiarism and cheating:

Individuals will fulfill their academic responsibilities in an honest and forthright manner.
Examples of prohibited behavior include but are not limited to: plagiarizing another's work (such as using another's phrasing, concepts or line of reasoning as your own without giving proper credit to the author or creator); submitting course assignments that are not your own; submitting the same paper in different classes without prior approval from both instructors; cheating (the use of any unauthorized means to gain academic advantage on assignments, laboratory reports or examinations); acquiring or using test materials without faculty knowledge; accessing any information, resource, and/or means of communication during an exam or assignment without specific authorization from the professor; failing to follow class policy; obtaining academic benefits through computer fraud or unauthorized access; engaging in academic fraud alone or with others; using material downloaded off Internet without proper citation; illicitly attempting to influence grading; failing to abide by test-taking procedures. The MGA Withdrawal Form is available online or in the Office of the Registrar. The entire Student Code of Conduct is included in Middle Georgia State's Student Handbook and is available online at https://www.mga.edu/student-conduct/

The penalty for academic misconduct is a grade of <u>zero</u> for the work involved and will be referred to the Dean of Students. Subsequent academic misconduct results in a failing grade for the course.

PLAGIARISM POLICY

A plagiarism prevention service is used in the evaluation of written work submitted for this course. As directed by the instructor, students are expected to submit or have their assignments submitted through the service to meet the requirements for this course. The papers will be retained by the service for the sole purpose of checking for plagiarized content in future student submissions.

POLICY ON DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Students seeking academic accommodations for a special need must contact the Middle Georgia State University Office of Disability Services in Macon at (478) 471-2985 or in Cochran at (478) 934-3023. Students may also visit the Disability Services Office in room 266 of the Student Life Center on the Macon campus or in Georgia Hall Lower Level on the Cochran campus. https://www.mga.edu/accessibility-services/index.php

DELAYED OPENING OR CLOSING OF THE UNIVERSITY

If a class is unable to occur for an opening or closing of the university, go to the online webpage of the course for additional instructions. If there are no additional instructions provided on the course homepage news section, then just plan to meet at the normal next regularly scheduled meeting for the course.