

### **3.17. Final Year Seminar Paper - Rules and Policies**

The Final Year Seminar Paper is a 6-credit course (150 marks) conceived to encourage students to write methodologically rigorous research papers on interdisciplinary themes. Students are mentored by a faculty member in conducting research and writing the paper. The paper should be written in the form of a journal article with the aim of being published in an academic journal.

#### **3.17.1. For Students in Batches 2016-20, 2017-21, and 2018-22**

##### General Guidelines

- The Research Cell will send an open call requesting seminar themes from faculty members (seminar mentors) in June. A shortlist of themes will be declared in July.
- The Cell will send seminar concept notes by various seminar mentors to students in the month of July.
- Students should write to seminar mentors expressing interest in joining their seminar, and upon mutual agreement sign up before 22nd July.
- Seminar mentors reserve the right to not accept students. Only those with written confirmation from the mentor can sign up for the particular seminar.
- Starting from 29th July, seminar mentors are expected to conduct weekly sessions with their seminar students focusing on discussions relating to the theme and specific research questions that individual students may pursue.
- Seminar moderators will conduct the meetings in a group. Students should use the calendar at the end of this section to keep a record of meetings and presentations. Seminar mentors are also expected to enter attendance on the LMS.
- Seminar meetings are intended to be oriented towards discussion, and not teaching. The role of the seminar mentor is primarily supervisory. The general expectation is that students present written drafts (in each session) and receive feedback from the mentor as well as other members of the group. The seminar mentor is also expected to offer new readings which may be helpful in conducting research.

- Seminar mentors have to provide feedback (including marks) to the students within two weeks of submission
- Students can collaborate with seminar mentors and write a joint paper. Students and seminar mentors interested in this option need to submit a joint declaration to the Research Cell latest by the research proposal deadline indicating their interest in collaboration and clearly detailing the nature of the collaboration. In this case, the student's research proposal, as well as subsequent submissions will be evaluated by an external faculty member decided by the Research Cell.
- Seminar papers are expected to be between 4000 and 10000 words long. Seminar mentors can set specific requirements depending on usual expectations in the field/s seminar theme belongs to.
- The Research Cell will follow general SSLA policy in dealing with any requests for re-evaluation. Marks for attendance and class participation will not be subject to re-evaluation.

#### Guidelines for Publication

- Students should send their papers to academic publications. Seminar mentors are expected to guide students towards possible avenues of publication.
- Journals need to have an ISSN number. Students wishing to publish in other journals may do so in consultation with their seminar coordinators and with prior permission from the Research Cell.
- Papers cannot be submitted to paid journals (publications where authors pay a fee).
- Students wishing to publish in non-academic avenues may do so in consultation with their seminar coordinators and with prior permission from the Research Cell.
- Students should include SSLA affiliation when they publish the paper.
- Proof of publication is due by the last day of classes in April.

### Evaluation (150 marks)

Attendance and participation - 25 marks

Research proposal - 20 marks (penalty for late submission: 5 marks)

First draft - 30 marks (penalty for late submission: 5 marks)

Final paper - 60 marks (penalty for late submission: 10 marks)

Proof of publication - 15 marks

    Paper submitted - 5 marks

    Paper accepted for publication - 10 marks

Note: If the imposition of late penalty results in a student failing the course that he or she would have passed otherwise, the Research Cell will waive the late penalty to the extent that the student receives the absolute minimum marks necessary to pass. Students who do not receive at least 60 marks will get a backlog in the course. Backlog submissions will also be subject to late submission penalty.

Seminar Activity (for Batch 2016-20)	Deadlines*
List of themes made available to students for selection	July 15, 2019
Deadline for students to sign up under a mentor	July 22, 2019
Weekly sessions start from the week of	July 29, 2019
Research proposal	September 2, 2019†
First draft	October 21, 2019‡
Final paper	January 13, 2020§
Proof of submission	April 25, 2020

\* Any extensions have to be approved by the Research Cell in writing.

† Late submissions (with penalty) will be accepted until October 14, 2019.

‡ Late submissions (with penalty) will be accepted until January 6, 2020.

§ Late submissions (with penalty) will be accepted until April 13, 2020.

#### 3.17.2. For Students of Batch 2019-23

- For students of Batch 2019-23, the Final Year Seminar Paper will be a 4-credit course for 100 marks. More detailed guidelines will be provided before the commencement of the academic year 2022-23.

**DISSERTATION MEETINGS CALENDAR**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Chair : \_\_\_\_\_

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic of Discussion</b>	<b>Signature of Seminar Mentor</b>