

**INFM 610: Senior Seminar
Spring 2022
Individual weekly meetings**

Readers

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- [Amelia Finaret](#), Office: Carr 205
- [Douglas Luman](#), Office: Alden Hall 105
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Grading

This course will use a contract for grading. Please refer to the INFM 600 Grade Contract document.

Course Description

Credits: 4

Senior research and seminar in Integrative Informatics. Students are evaluated on their research effort, oral defense, and written senior thesis.

Must be taken on the letter-grade basis.

Prerequisite: INFM 600 and permission of instructor.

Distribution Requirements: None.

INFM 600 & 610 Joint Learning Outcomes

1. Define a feasible and significant research project.
2. Identify and utilize the appropriate methods and/or techniques .
3. Locate, interpret and analyze relevant literature and other appropriate source material.
4. Complete the proposed work following identified processes.
5. Produce a final product that showcases the findings in appropriate, original, practical, and creative ways.
6. Articulate the implications of data and information used in the project in different social, historical, political, and/or cultural contexts.
7. Present and communicate complex ideas in a variety of media via proposal, oral defenses, and, if appropriate, exhibits.
8. Describe and analyze a research process, its methods/techniques, and outcomes in the form of a formal thesis document.

Course Information

In the second part of the senior project course sequence you will continue with the work described in your progress document and follow the timeline submitted as a part of your progress portfolio.

You will again set weekly meetings with your first reader at the beginning of the semester. These meetings are designed to provide you with an opportunity to discuss and share ideas, showcase and troubleshoot your progress, as well as ensure that you are managing your time effectively in order to stay on track and finish your project within the allotted time. To make the most of the meetings with your first reader, you are expected to come prepared to each week's meeting by having questions to ask for guidance, presenting the progress you have made toward your senior project requirements, sharing the challenges you have faced, and brainstorming ideas to resolve those challenges. Your first reader may ask you questions and provide suggestions, which you need to be ready to listen to and write down. Outside of weekly meetings, your first reader is available via email.

Assignments

The course contains the following assignments. Informatics Thesis 2021 organization (<https://github.com/Allegheny-College-INFM-Thesis-2021>) will be used for faculty to distribute assignments and for students to submit them. Each assignment must be submitted via the assignment's GitHub repository.

1. Senior Thesis

You must complete a senior project thesis. Your thesis must contain an appropriate title, abstract, introduction/background, project specification and motivation, specific aim(s), methods/approach, outcome of the project, and discussion/future work. Your final thesis should be at least 9000 words in length, with at least 25 references (in APA format).

2. Oral Defense

Within 2 weeks of turning in your thesis, you will meet with both of your readers in-person for the Comp Defense. During this meeting, you will be invited to give a five minute presentation describing your completed work, followed by a Q&A session with a series of questions from your readers. It is your job to defend and discuss your completed project, outline its strengths and limitations and justify what makes your proposed project an Integrative Informatics comp. These meetings typically last 30 minutes. It is common for readers to require further work on your comp before your work is accepted and you are allowed to finalize your submission. You will be responsible for scheduling your oral defense; please check the calendars of your readers to start determining dates and times that will work.

3. Senior Project Symposium

You are also required to participate in a Senior Project Symposium, an event designed to highlight student projects in Integrative Informatics. By the time of the symposium, you must have defended your thesis and completed any work required by your readers to ensure its successful completion. For the symposium, you are invited to prepare a poster highlighting your completed work and engage with audience members during the symposium to explain your project and its outcomes.

Schedule

The deadlines for Spring 2022 are:

1. Senior Thesis: **3/28/2022** by 5pm to both readers {This is the Monday after spring break}.
2. Oral Thesis Defense: Before **4/11/2022**.
3. Senior Project Symposium: **4/25/2022**.
4. Final Thesis: **5/13/2022** by 5pm.

Seeking assistance

If you find yourself in difficult circumstances which affect your ability to participate in or complete course work, let your first reader know immediately. Do not wait until the end of the semester.

Part of our role as course instructors is to make sure that students receive the assistance they need. Do not hesitate to let us know if there is anything we can do with respect to your ability to handle your work. This is especially true of our current circumstances of the on-going global pandemic.

In many situations, the following list of resources may help:

- [The Maytum Learning Commons](#)
- [Allegheny College Counseling Center](#)
- [The Winslow Health Center](#)
- [Student Life](#)

Special needs and disability

Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact Disability Services at +1 814-334-2898. Disability Services is part of the Learning Commons, located in Pelletier Library. Should you need accommodations, contact this office as soon as possible to ensure that approved accommodations are communicated and implemented as quickly as possible. This serves both you and me in providing the best environment for learning and support.