Course Description

This course aims to explore a number of topics relevant to those students seeking an academic tenure-track position for their career. In particular, students will investigate a number of topics pertinent in the early stages of an academic career (e.g. final years of graduate school or 1st few years of a postdoctoral fellowship, the academic interview process, and early years as a professor) through a series of seminars, interactive workshops, and panel discussions with invited speakers. Career development for ‘alternative’ career paths for students with PhD degrees will also be discussed toward the end of the course.

Course Notes

Please note that ME 738 is being offered for the first time in the Fall 2017 term. The course is only offered to students as an audit, and enrollment can only be achieved by submitting a course add/drop form signed by the course instructor to the graduate office. Although students will not receive credit toward their degree requirements for enrolling in ME 738, their enrollment will be noted on their transcript as an optional degree milestone; however, to receive this distinction, attendance is mandatory for each week of the course, unless the course instructor has previously been notified. While this course does not have deliverables that count toward a final grade (i.e. assignments, projects, etc.), students will occasionally be asked to complete an activity or prepare material prior to some sessions. Finally, as this is the first offering of this course, a short survey will be electronically sent to you after each session; please take a few minutes to provide your feedback so that the course can be improved in future offerings.

Course Schedule

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| Week | Date | Topic | Speaker(s) | Notes |
| 1 | Sept. 13 | Course introduction | Pearl Sullivan  Mary Wells |  |
| 2 | Sept. 20 | Differentiating yourself as an applicant | Larry Smith |  |
| 3\* | Sept 27 | Developing an effective CV and cover letter | Erica Refling  (CCA) | Students will be asked to bring a current copy of their CV to this workshop |
| 4 | Oct. 4 | Delivering a research seminar and creating a research program | Carolyn Hansson |  |
| 5\*\* | Oct. 13 | Teaching preparation | Tommy Mayberry  (CTE) | Students will be asked to complete the ‘Teaching Perspectives Inventory’ prior to workshop |
| 6 | Oct. 18 | Funding 1-Funding opportunities | Mike Worswick |  |
| 7 | Oct. 25 | Funding 2-Preparing applications | Page Burton (Engineering Research) |  |
| 8 | Nov. 1 | The academic interview  (panel discussion) | Hamid Jahed  William Melek  Carolyn Ren |  |
| 9 | Nov. 8 | Intellectual property, research integrity, research ethics | Eric Luvisotto  Bruce Muirhead  Julie Joza  (Office of Research) | Students will be asked to review an IP case study prior to workshop |
| 10\*\*\* | Nov. 15 | Beginning a tenure-track career  (panel discussion) | Cliff Butcher  Mihaela Vlasea  Jean-Pierre Hickey |  |
| 11 | Nov. 22 | Alternative career path preparation | Erica Refling  (CCA) | Students will be asked to bring a copy of their current resume to this workshop |
| 12 | Nov. 29 | Alternative career path (panel discussion) | Mark Kozdras (Canmet/Dana)  Peter Teertstra (University of Waterloo)  Dennis Turriff  (MEA Forensics)  Hamid Alemohammad (AOMS Technologies) Jeff McIsaac  (Mohawk College) |  |
| 13 | Dec. 6 | Personal wellness and mental health | Cheri Bilitz  (School of Social Work) |  |

\* Workshop will be held from 1:30-4:00PM at Tatham Centre

\*\*Note that this class is on Friday due to the Thanksgiving holiday weekend

\*\*Location TBD