

MENG 5399 – Independent Study
Course Syllabus

Semester / Year	Spring / 2021
Catalog Description	Independent study in specific areas of Mechanical Engineering not covered by organized graduate courses. A maximum of six credit hours may be used for graduate credit on the MSME degree.
Prerequisites	Consent of the Department Chair.
Section number	TBD
Instructor	Dr. Shih-Feng Chou
Contact info	3900 University Blvd., RBN 3005, Tyler TX. 75799 Phone: 903-566-6209 Email: schou@uttyler.edu
Class Type / Location	Independent/Tyler
Class Time	Weekly Zoom meeting (Fr) with faculty advisor.
Office Hours	MoWe 2 – 3 PM and Tu 2 – 3 PM
Credits	3
Required Textbook	N/A
Optional References	N/A
Additional requirements	N/A
Evaluation Method	A written report.
Grading Policy / Scale	Letter grades, scale: A 90 – 100 B 80 – 89 C 70 – 79 D 60 – 69 F < 60

Important events / dates	01/25/2021 (Mo): Census Date 02/26/2021 (Fr): 1 st Draft Report 03/29/2021 (Mo): Last day to withdraw from one or more classes 04/02/2021 (Fr): 2 nd Draft Report 04/30/2021 (Mo): Final Report Date
Attendance / Makeup policy	N/A
Course Learning Outcomes / ABET & PEOs relation	A student who has successfully completed this course should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate the ability of self-directed learning. 2. Develop skills to support independent research. 3. Develop a critical understanding of and the ability to apply theoretical knowledge under a self-directed learning environment. 4. Communicate effectively engineering related material to an engineering audience. For the topic assigned, by the end of this course the student should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply electrospinning to produce drug-eluting fibers from polymer solutions. 2. Characterize fibers using physicommechanical techniques. 3. Evaluate drug stability using in vitro drug release assays. 4. Produce a publishable draft paper from the work performed.
Tentative Topics	TBD.
Other	N/A

University Policies:

1. UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

2. Student Standards of Academic Conduct

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, or material which has been submitted within a different course without explicit approval of the instructor, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

- i. “Cheating” includes, but is not limited to:
 - copying from another student’s test paper;
 - using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;

- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
 - possession during a test of materials, or devices and instruments allowing access to materials, which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes” as well as cell phones, to name a few. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
 - using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
 - collaborating with or seeking aid from another student or person during a test or other assignment without explicit authorization;
 - discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
 - divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, or removing material from the exam location, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
 - substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
 - paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
 - falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
 - taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
 - misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.
- ii. “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.
- iii. “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.
- iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.
- v. Penalty for any related infractions will be decided at the discretion of the instructor including, but not limited to, granting of a failing grade in part or the course or in the entire course.

3. Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

4. Important Covid-19 Information for Classrooms and Laboratories

Students are required to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth, and follow social distancing guidelines, at all times in public settings (including classrooms and laboratories), as specified by [Procedures for Fall 2020 Return to Normal Operations](#). The UT Tyler community of Patriots views adoption of these practices consistent with its [Honor Code](#) and a sign of good citizenship and respectful care of fellow classmates, faculty, and staff.

Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, or a higher than normal temperature will be excused from class and should stay at home and may join the class remotely. Students who have difficulty adhering to the Covid-19 safety policies for health reasons are also encouraged to join the class remotely. Students needing additional accommodations may contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources at University Center 3150, or call (903) 566-7079 or email saroffice@uttyler.edu.

5. Recording of Class Sessions

Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission.

6. Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

7. UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free.

8. Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date.)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade).
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment.
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid.

9. State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

10. Disability/Accessibility Services

The University of Texas at Tyler has a continuing commitment to providing reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Like so many things this Fall, the need for accommodations and the process for arranging them may be altered by the COVID-19 changes we are experiencing and the safety protocols currently in place. Students with disabilities who may need accommodation(s) in order to fully participate in this class are urged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources Office (SAR) as soon as possible, to explore what arrangements need to be made to ensure access. During the Fall 2020 semester, SAR will be conducting all appointments via ZOOM. If you have a disability, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student Application. For more information, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices> or call 903.566.7079.

11. Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

12. Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

13. Social Security and FERPA Statement

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

14. Emergency Exits and Evacuation

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

15. UT Tyler Resources for Students

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)