TPP Degree Completion, Etc.

February 2011

Topics
- Program Forms
  - P/D/F (nothing new at this time)
- Thesis
  - Timetables
- Dual Degrees
- PhD Applications
  - [not really relevant this term; see me if you want to discuss long term plans]
- Possible end of term presentations?

Program Forms
- We *really* should have one on file and approved by now
- Revisions need to be cleared
- Thesis supervision and topic
- Timetables for completion and "progress"

First Year Students - Curriculum
- ESD.936 not being offered
- Instead, all 1st year students should take ESD.864
  - TR10:30-12

ESD.8643 Modeling and Assessment for Policy
(New)
4 (F)
(Same subject as 12.844)
Prereq: ESD.10 or permission of instructor
Units: 3-0-9
Lecture: TR10:30-12 (ES1-057)

Explores how scientific information and quantitative models can be used to inform policy decision-making. Develops an understanding of quantitative modeling techniques and their role in the policy process through case studies and interactive activities. Addresses issues such as analysis of scientific assessment processes, uses of integrated assessment models, public perception of quantitative information, methods for dealing with uncertainties, and design choices in building policy-relevant models. Examples focus on models and information used in earth system governance.

J. Salim
No required or recommended textbooks
P/D/F Option for Graduate Students

» Revision to 2.26.1 of the Rules and Regulations of the Faculty (http://web.mit.edu/faculty/governance/rules/2.60.html)

“The grade of P is authorized for use under the following circumstances:

“[...] v. for students registered in a graduate degree program in a total of no more than one elected subject per term. These subjects cannot be used to fulfill degree requirements, and must be elected by the students and the Registrar notified before the end of the fifth week of the term. Pursuant to the educational goals of their respective programs, individual departments or instructors may restrict how the P/D/F option is exercised by students in their programs or classes.”

TPP and P/D/F

» TPP will NOT allow P/D/F option classes* to be applied toward the degree

“[...] Pursuant to the educational goals of their respective programs, individual departments or instructors may restrict how the P/D/F option is exercised by students in their programs or classes.”

TPP Policy

» “no more than one elected subject per term”
  - Nothing further to say
» “cannot be used to fulfill degree requirements”
  - Not usable for the TPP core classes
  - Dual degree students: this means that the 66/42 courses cannot be P/D/F
  - “must be elected by the students and the Registrar notified before the end of the fifth week of the term”
    - Must be CLEARED before the Add date (see below)
  - “individual departments or instructors may restrict how the P/D/F option is exercised by students in their programs or classes”
    - Not just up to TPP; instructor can deny
    - TPP will NOT CONSIDER for engineering systems concentration courses
      - Extraordinary circumstances?
        - A [very] strong case must be made - and it may still be for naught.
  - Scrutiny of course load:
    - NO ONE with a P/D/F will be allowed to exceed stated ESD limits
  - ESD PhD admissions committee unlikely to like seeing P/D/F in key classes of applicant transcripts
## Thesis Deadlines

- **Thesis topic approval:** as early as possible (1st week of term preceding graduation)
  - Submission and "grades" managed centrally
  - Contact furdamit.edu if you need your name added to the "classlist"
- **Thesis "Proposal"**
  - Due by Drop Date of term PRECEDING graduation
  - Look for an "Approved" grade
  - If you want more detailed comments/reviews, request by email to furdamit.edu - or just arrange to meet

### Application for advanced degree due Feb 4 (THIS Friday!)
- For September degree list, 10 June

### Theses due dates
- **06 May 2011**
- **05 Aug 2011**
- **Hard deadlines**
  - Extensions ONLY with credible demonstration of completion (e.g., nearly completed drafts, complete with references, TOC, etc.)

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### Harvard Cross Registration and P/D/F

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<th>Harvard Schools</th>
<th>MIT &quot;A&quot;</th>
<th>MIT &quot;B&quot;</th>
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<th>MIT &quot;P&quot;</th>
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Thesis “Proposal”

Based on Section 9 in de Neufville’s document (Chapter 12 in latest revision)
- Thesis Formulation:
  - Write a two page description and justification of the formulation of your thesis in five parts:
    - Its central question or issue,
    - The one or two key methods you will use to test or elaborate this hypothesis,
    - The evidence or data available to support your answer,
    - The feasibility of your approach within the time and capacities at your disposal, and
    - The logic by which you will establish the point of your thesis.

- Needs a cover page signed by your thesis supervisor and reader, if appropriate.

Thesis Guidelines

- de Neufville thesis manual
  - [Link](http://ardent.mit.edu/thesis_manual.pdf)
  - [Link](http://ttpserver.mit.edu/docs/thesis_manual_2010.pdf)
- General MIT Guidelines
  - [Link](http://libraries.mit.edu/archives/thesis-specs/)
  - [Link](http://web.mit.edu/academicintegrity/)

From the TPP WWW Site

- Also will be posted on R de Neufville’s server
- Some minor edits probably coming, too

New Chapter in Manual: “Policies”

- Not just thesis policies
- General TPP academic policies
- But one aspect that has become an ESD topic that we have to address:
  - Rank of thesis supervisors
### Supervision Guidelines

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Can Supervise</th>
<th>May Supervise</th>
<th>Unlikely to Supervise</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>» Institute Professor</td>
<td>» Senior Lecturer, Lecturer</td>
<td>» Instructor, Instructor/Coach</td>
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<td>» Assistant Professor; Associate Professor; Professor</td>
<td>» Adjunct Professor; Adjunct Associate Professor</td>
<td>» Technical Instructor</td>
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<td>» Associate Professor of the Practice</td>
<td>» Visiting Lecturer</td>
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<td>» Visiting Assistant Professor; Visiting Associate Professor; Visiting Professor</td>
<td>» Honorary Lecturer</td>
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<tr>
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<td>» Principal Research Associate, Principal Research Engineer; Principal Research Scientist (all other)</td>
<td>» Affiliated Faculty</td>
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<tr>
<td>(only if appointment is in an ESD-affiliated research program)</td>
<td>» Research Associate, Research Engineer, Research Scientist</td>
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Applications to ESD PhD

- See [http://esd.mit.edu/academics/phd_admissions.html](http://esd.mit.edu/academics/phd_admissions.html)
- Due December 15th [for the moment]
- Elizabeth Milnes (emilnes@mit.edu; E40-249)
- "How do I apply if I am already a student at MIT?"
  - "[...] MIT master's students seeking a doctoral degree should apply using the procedure outlined above. [i.e.: no formal distinction between internal and external applications]"
  - "Current students only are eligible for an application fee waiver, which they can request from ESD's Academic Office [...]"
  - "Additionally, current graduate students do not have to submit GRE scores, but [...] standardized test scores submitted to MIT in the past will automatically be uploaded into our system, and be available to the Admissions Committee."
  - "[...] The Admissions Committee expects successful applicants to the doctoral program will have an MIT GPA of 4.7 or higher."