**IT 7999 Master Thesis Course Syllabus**

# Instructor

**Lei Li, Ph.D. Professor**

**E-mail:** lli@kennesaw.edu

**Office Phone:** 470-578-3915

**Office Location:** Marietta Campus,Atrium Building J364

**Office Hours:** and by appointment

**Virtual Office Hours:** by D2L email or make an appointment.

**Note**: The main instructor of the course is the faculty advisor of the thesis. Dr. Li is the co-instructor who help thesis students on the administrative process such as registration, paper works and general guidance.

# Course Communication

Effective communication is the key to the success of both online and hybrid classes. Please use following guideline for class communication.

* **Email me or text me** (706-225-9219, don’t call this number unless it’s emergency). Email is the best way to reach me. Use D2L email if possible. My KSU email (lli@kennesaw.edu) should only be used when you don’t have access to D2L site. Your emails and texts are GUARANTEED to be replied WITHIN 12 HOURS.
* When email me using accounts other than D2L email, put the course and section number in the subject line. Emails without proper subject line will not be replied.
* Avoid using personal email to contact me. Sensitive information (such as your grades) can ONLY be sent to D2L email or KSU email account.

# Course Description

**Classroom & Meeting Time**: TBD

**Credit hours:** 3 credit hours

**Prerequisites**: Permission of program director

**Required Textbook:** none.

## Course Description

The thesis is designed for students wanting a research focus to their degree. The student works independently under the supervision of a designated faculty member on a thesis of substance in information technology. The student will generate a formal written thesis and give a final defense of the thesis. The course may be repeated, but only 6 hours may be applied toward the degree.

## Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

* acquire an in-depth level of knowledge in the thesis domain area
* compose, present and defend a scientific inquiry in the IT field in the form of a master’s thesis

## Minimum Technical Requirements

* This class uses D2L as hosting site. Run a [system check](https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/knowledge.do?sysparm_document_key=kb_knowledge,80d6f09a94e3a000e6eb9ad8fcab2105) to ensure your computer work with D2L. Check out UITS D2L training: <http://uits.kennesaw.edu/support/d2ltraining.php>
* Internet Connection. A high-speed Internet connection such as DSL or cable Internet access is highly recommended. You can also use computer labs on campus to complete the coursework.

## Minimum Technical Skills Requirement

Students entering this course are expected to have following technical skills:

* General computer literacy. Students should be proficient with the basic functions of standard software packages (e.g., MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, and Adobe Reader) and standard players (e.g., QuickTime, Windows Media Player). These programs will need to be accessible to students through home use or other computer access. A list of primers on many of these technologies is available at https://apps.kennesaw.edu/portal/prod/app\_uni\_cdoc\_publ/documents/
* A working knowledge of conducting literature search in the subject area of the thesis
* Other technical skills specified by the thesis advisor

## Course Organization

There is no pre-set meeting date and time for either online or on campus section. A thesis student should work out a meeting plan with his/her advisor. Generally, the student should meet with his/her thesis advisor on a weekly basis.

# Grading

There are 5 deliverables in the thesis (see course schedule section). The first 2 deliverables are due at the first semester of the thesis. The 3 other deliverables are due at the second semester of the thesis.

The grade of the thesis will be either satisfactory or unsatisfactory. No letter grade will be assigned.

## Grading Items Turnaround Time

* The grades for thesis deliverables will be available two weeks after the due date.

# Course Schedule

Below is an outline of the content and activities in each module of the course. Course schedule is tentative and subject to change. Thesis work spreads out in two semesters and they are marked as semester 1 and semester 2 in the schedule.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Learning Modules** | **Contents** | **Assessment Item** |
| LM0 - Course Orientation (semester 1)  | 1. Syllabus and Orientation
 |  |
| LM 1 – Thesis in a Nutshell (semester 1) | 1. Introduction to thesis
2. Recommended timeline for a thesis
3. Expectations on thesis
4. Thesis guideline
5. Required paperwork
 | Quiz 1 – test student’s understanding on thesis and timeline.  |
| LM 2 – Research Method Part 1 (semester 1) | 1. Research life cycle
2. Two different types of research: development-based and survey/evaluation based.
3. How to generate to research ideas
4. How to do literature review.
 | Deliverable 1 – One page description of research idea |
| LM 3 – Research Method Part 2 (semester 1) | 1. Design on development-based research
2. Design survey/evaluation based research
 | Deliverable 2 – Thesis ProposalProposal defense.  |
| LM 4 – Thesis in works (semester 2)  | 1. Thesis format requirement
 | Deliverable 3 – thesis draft #1 |
| LM 5 – Thesis in works (semester 2) | 1. Thesis library submission guideline
2. How to covert thesis into academic papers
 | Deliverable 4 – thesis draft #2Deliverable 5 – thesis final draft |
| LM 6 – Resources (students)  | 1. Library resources
2. Reference guideline
3. Tips on writing academic paper
 |  |
| LM 7 – Resources (Instructors) | 1. Required forms and procedures
2. Tips for a successful thesis advisor
 |  |

#  Course Expectations

## Student Responsibility

For this online class, you should expect to spend seven to eight hours each week on coursework:

* Check KSU email regularly;
* Login D2L course website frequently to access the course material (at least every other day);
* Complete the tasks assigned by thesis advisor on time.

## Tips for Effective Online Learning

For an online class, students can really enjoy the benefits of learning at you own pace and at the place of your choice. Below are some tips for effective online learning.

* **Check D2L course website frequently**. It’s recommended that students should login D2L course site **AT LEAST** every other day. Always be aware of current status of the course. Take advantage of the posted learning material such as recorded lectures.
* **Work with the instructor closely**. If you have any question, contact the instructor immediately. You can either email or text me and your message is guaranteed to be replied within 12 hours.
* **Start your work early**. If you can start a task early, don’t start late. Assuming you spend the same amount of time completing the task, starting later will be much more stressful than starting early. Never start until the last minute! You’ll have no turnaround time if you need help or something happens.
* **Keep up with the work**. Don’t fall behind. If you do, contact the instructor immediately for what you need to do. The instructor may also contact you if he is concerned. Respond to the instructor’s inquiry promptly.

## Class Communication Rules

In any classroom setting there are communication rules in place that encourage students to respect others and their opinions. In an online environment, the do's and don'ts of online communication are referred to as **Netiquette**. As a student in my course you should:

* Be sensitive and reflective to what others are saying.
* **Avoid typing in all capitals** because it is difficult to read and is considered the electronic version of 'shouting'.
* Don't flame - These are outbursts of extreme emotion or opinion.
* Think before you hit the post (enter/reply) button. You can't take it back! Don't use offensive language.
* Use clear subject lines.
* Don't use abbreviations or acronyms unless the entire class knows them. Be forgiving. Anyone can make a mistake.
* Keep the dialog collegial and professional, humor is difficult to convey in an online environment.
* Always **assume good intent** and **respond accordingly**. If you are unsure of or annoyed by a message, wait 24 hours before responding.

# Policies

## Accessibility Statement

* The accessibility statement of the learning management system of this course, Desire to Learn, is available at <https://www.d2l.com/accessibility/>
* Android Studio accessibility statement: <https://developer.android.com/studio/intro/accessibility.html>
* Wireshark provide an accessibility Toolkit allowing accessibility technologies to interact with a graphical user interface. More information is available at: <https://www.wireshark.org/docs/wsdg_html/>

## Privacy Statement

The privacy policy of the learning management system of this course, Desire to Learn, is available at: <https://www.d2l.com/legal/privacy/>

## Attendance Policy

Attendance and participation in class are expected. If you have any problems with attendance (or something else), contact me **BEFORE** they become a problem.

The instructor is required to file an engagement report by **[date to be determined]**. Students who never login D2L course web site or only complete little to none course work will be considered as “**NOT ENGAGED STUDENT**”. Instructor will send an email to those students for verification before file the report. Not engaged students will be **DROPPED** from the class

## Academic Honesty

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to university materials, misrepresentation/falsification of university records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), which includes either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement. See also http://www.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct.

Students are encouraged to study together and to work together on class assignments and lab exercises; however, the provisions of the STUDENT CONDUCT REGULATIONS, II. Academic Honesty, KSC Undergraduate Catalog will be strictly enforced in this class. Examples of cooperation are **OK**: talking with someone about approaches to the assignment, discussing a particular problem that you are having.

* Examples of cooperation are **NOT OK**: taking someone else's assignment and modifying it, examining someone else's solution in detail.
* Any cases involving suspected academic dishonesty result in a grade of **ZERO** for the assignment. This penalty applies to all students involved.

Committing plagiarism is considered an act of academic dishonesty and will be taken very seriously. Any instances where academic dishonesty is suspected will result in an automatic grade of a zero for all students involved. Further disciplinary action may be taken such as suspension or expulsion from the University.

## Grade Appeals and Student Complaints

KSU desires to resolve student grievances, complaints and concerns in an expeditious, fair and amicable manner. For complaints regarding this course, please contact the professor. If the issue is not resolved, contact the department chair.

## Withdrawal Policy

The last day to withdraw without academic penalty date **TBD**. Ceasing to attend class or oral notice thereof DOES NOT constitute official withdrawal from the course. Students who simply stop attending classes without officially withdrawing usually are assigned failing grades. Students wishing to withdraw after the scheduled change period (add/drop) must obtain and complete a withdrawal form from the Academic Services Department in the Registrar’s Office.

## Enrollment Policy

Only those students who are enrolled in the class may attend lectures, receive assignments, take quizzes and exams, and receive a grade in the class. If a student is administratively withdrawn from this course, they will not be permitted to attend class nor will they receive any grade for the class.

## Electronic Devices

In order to minimize the level of distraction, all beepers and cellular phones must be on quiet mode during class meeting times. Students who wish to use a computer/PDA for note taking need prior approval of the instructor since key clicks and other noises can distract other students. Recording of lectures by any method requires prior approval of the instructor. Students using a laptop in class should not check their email, browse the web, or in other way detract from the focus of the class.

## Reasonable Accommodations

Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require “reasonable accommodation(s)” to complete the course may request those from Office of Student Disability Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University’s Office of Student Disability Services not individual faculty members or academic departments. A student anticipating a need for accommodation, must submit documentation requesting an accommodation in a timely fashion to permit time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking course quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Student Disability Services is located in the Carmichael Student Center in Suite 267. For more information, please call 470-578-2666 or visit the Student Disabilities Services websites at

[www.kennesaw.edu/stu\_dev/sds](http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/sds)

http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu\_dev/dsss/dsss.html

## ****Student Privacy (FERPA)****

Students have certain rights to privacy. <http://registrar.kennesaw.edu/resources/ferpa.php>

The University’s online learning system and email system are designed to prevent unauthorized individuals from gaining access to sensitive information or information protected by federal or state law. We will communicate regarding course matters through the University’s designated technology learning system or Kennesaw state email system.

## KSU Sexual Misconduct Policy & Ethics Statement

KSU will not tolerate sexual misconduct or sexually exploitative or harassing behavior of any kind. <https://policy.kennesaw.edu/content/sexual-misconduct-policy>.

You are expected to respect religious, cultural, and gender differences.

## Classroom Behavior

Students are reminded to conduct themselves in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provision. Students who are in violation of KSU policy will be asked to leave the classroom and may be subject to disciplinary action by the University.

## Reference Requirement

When you quote or base your ideas on other people’s work (e.g., from articles, journals, magazines, books, websites, etc.) in assignments or discussions, you MUST cite the source you used. When you direct quote, you must put others’ words in quotation marks and cite the source(s). When reading that source contributed to the ideas presented in your paper, you must give the authors proper credit.

Students are recommended to user APA style for their references.

* APA style guide: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

## Student Course Evaluation:

A standard questionnaire (described below) will be administered during the last two weeks of the semester in all classes. Additional questions developed by the college or instructor(s) may be included as well. It is important that each student provide meaningful feedback to the instructor(s) so that changes can be made in the course to continually improve its effectiveness. We value student feedback about the course, our teaching styles, and course materials, so as to improve our teaching and your learning. At a minimum, the following two questions will be asked: 1) Identify the aspects of the course that most contributed to your learning (include examples of specific materials, exercises and/or the faculty member's approach to teaching and mentoring), and 2) Identify the aspects of the course, if any, that might be improved (include examples of specific materials, exercises and/or the faculty member's approach to teaching and mentoring).

# Helpful Resources

## Writing Center

The KSU Writing Center helps students in all majors improve their writing. Experienced, friendly writing assistants help with topic development, revision, research, documentation, grammar, and more. For more information or to make an appointment, visit writingcenter.kennesaw.edu or stop by English Building, Room 242 (Kennesaw campus) or Johnson Library, Room 121 (Marietta campus).

## Library

The KSU Library System assists all students, faculty and staff with their research, including using library databases to find articles, accessing books and other materials in our catalog, and for specialized research needs. Librarians are available for in-person walk-up assistance at library help desks, one-on-one research appointments, and 24x7 via library chat. For more information on library locations, hours, and how to access our services please visit <http://library.kennesaw.edu/>

## Student Email and Web Account Access:

KSU uses a central authentication server that will allow one username and password to be used by all KSU users to access an increasing variety of applications (email, WebCT etc.) This unified network identification is referred to as your "NetID". The source for university-provided email and web space for students is located at http://students.kennesaw.edu. Students have access to this system once they have established their NetID. This system will provide email service through a web based interface.

**How to Activate your NetID:**

To activate your NetID go to http://netid.kennesaw.edu and click on the "Sign up Now!" link. You will be asked to provide information to verify your identity and set your password. This password will only be for NetID enabled applications.

**How to Look Up a NetID:**

After you have activated your NetID, you can look up other users by logging into http://netid.kennesaw.edu and clicking on Directory Search.

**How to Send Email:**

Your NetID in combination with the new email address would look like netid@students.kennesaw.edu.

**Web Address:**

For student web address, your NETID in combination with the new server address would look like http://students.kennesaw.edu/~netid. If you have problems please call the Service Desk at ext. 6999 or e-mail service@kennesaw.edu.

**Owl Printing System:**

The Owl Print system (student network printing/copying solution) is in place in the KSU library as well as all the open labs and lab/electronic classroom combinations across campus. Students must have an Owl Print card to use printing/copying services.

## Other Student Resources

For issues with technical difficulties, please contact the **Student Helpdesk**:

* Email: studenthelpdesk@kennesaw.edu
* Call: 470-578-3555

Additional Technology Resources

* [Student Service Desk and Help Center](http://its.kennesaw.edu/students/index.html)
* [Browser Checker](https://usg.desire2learn.com/d2l/tools/system_check/systemcheck.asp?ou=6606)
* [USG Desire2Learn Help Center](https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/)
* [ITS Documentation Center](https://apps.kennesaw.edu/portal/prod/app_uni_cdoc_publ/student/)
* [Check Service Outages](http://status.usg.edu/)
* [Maintenance Schedule](http://www.usg.edu/information_technology_services/learning_in_21st_century_georgia/georgiaview)

Academic Resources

* [Academic Tutoring Services](http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/alp/academic.shtml)
* [Disability Resources](http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/dsss.html)
* [ESL Study and Tutorial Center](http://www.kennesaw.edu/uc/esl/)
* [Library](http://www.kennesaw.edu/library)
* [The Writing Center](http://www.kennesaw.edu/writingcenter/index.php)

Student Support and Wellness Resources

* [Career Services Center](https://careerctr.kennesaw.edu/)
* [Counseling and Psychological Services](http://sss.kennesaw.edu/cps/)

# Work Cited

* The learning marital used in this course is clearly listed in the D2L course site.
* The course policies list in this syllabus are cited from Kennesaw State University student handbook: <http://catalog.kennesaw.edu//content.php?navoid=2481&catoid=32>
* There is reference requirement for students’ work. APA citation style is recommended. Check out Policy section of the syllabus for details.