George Mason University
Graduate Course Approval/Inventory Form

Please complete this form and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses. Forward it as an email attachment to the Secretary of the Graduate Council. A printed copy of the form with signatures should be brought to the Graduate Council Meeting. Complete the Coordinator Form on page 2, if changes in this course will affect other units.

Please indicate:  ___X__ NEW  ____ MODIFY  ____ DELETE

Local Unit: ECE/TCOM  Graduate Council Approval Date:

Course Abbreviation: TCOM  Course Number: 750

Full Course Title: Coordinating Seminar

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): Coordinating Seminar

Credit hours: 3  Program of Record: MS in Telecommunications

Repeatable for Credit?  ___ D=Yes, not within same term  Up to hours
                     ___ T=Yes, within the same term  Up to  hours
                     _N_ N=Cannot be repeated for credit

Activity Code (please indicate):  ___ Lecture (LEC)  ___ Lab (LAB)  ___ Recitation (RCT)
                                 ___ Studio (STU)  ___ Internship (INT)  ___ Independent Study (IND)
                                 ___X_ Seminar (SEM)

Catalog Credit Format  3 : 0 : 0  Course Level: GF(500-600) ___ GA(700+) ___X_

Maximum Enrollment: 35  For NEW courses, first term to be offered: Spring 2004

Prerequisites or corequisites: Open only to students in the MA or MS in Telecommunications programs with at least 18 credit hours of course work prior to registration

Catalog Description (35 words or less)  Please use catalog format and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses: Topics include specific telecommunications problems in management, law, engineering, education, and communications. The course focuses on the ways a problem in one area can create or solve a problem in another area.

For MODIFIED or DELETED courses as appropriate:
Last term offered:  Previous Course Abbreviation:  Previous number:

Description of modification:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:
Submitted by:  ___ Jeremy Allnutt ______________________ email: jallnutt@gmu.edu

Department/Program:  ___ ECE/MS in Telecommunications  ___ Date: _June 2003________

College Committee:  __________________________________ Date:  __________________

Graduate Council Representative:  __________________________________ Date:  __________________
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
Course Coordination Form

Approval from other units:

Please list those units outside of your own who may be affected by this new, modified, or deleted course. Each of these units must approve this change prior to its being submitted to the Graduate Council for approval.

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<th>Unit:</th>
<th>Head of Unit’s Signature:</th>
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Graduate Council approval: _______________________________ Date: __________

Graduate Council representative: ___________________________ Date: __________

Provost Office representative: _____________________________ Date: __________
1. CATALOG DESCRIPTION
   (a) TCOM 750 Coordinating Seminar (3.0:3.0:0)
   (b) Prerequisites: Open only to students in the MA or MS in Telecommunications programs with at least 18 credit hours of course work prior to registration
   (c) Catalog Description: Topics include specific telecommunications problems in management, law, engineering, education, and communications. The course focuses on the ways a problem in one area can create or solve a problem in other areas.

2. JUSTIFICATION
   (a) Course Objectives
   This course is intended to bring advanced graduate master’s students in the MA and MS in Telecommunications Programs together in a seminar forum to develop an overall appreciation of the telecommunications area through group discussions, individual research, and project presentations on a variety of topical problems that are emerging as the course is held.
   (b) Course Necessity
   The core of the MS in Telecommunications program was drawn from that used for the MA in Telecommunications program. One of the courses is TELE 750. The MA and MS in Telecommunications programs have been aligned in such a way that tracks, or certificates, in either program may be taken as part of the elective program in the other. In a like manner, there is now a need to offer complementary courses in the core of each program that may be taken by students in either program. TELE 750 was developed to allow MA students to build an appreciation for problems and solutions in the telecommunications area from a non-technical perspective. The growth in the number of TCOM students, and their much greater spread in technical background than the TELE students, has led to the need to provide a course similar to TELE 750, but tailored more to the technical component of the TCOM program. The intent is to have either TELE 750 or TCOM 750 be available to students in either program, the choice being based on that particular student’s focus and career objectives. Although different in their focus, TELE 750 and TCOM 750 would be complementary core courses that would be cross-listed, permitting students from either program to take them for credit within their home master’s program. Students would not be able to take both courses for credit.
   (c) Relationship to Existing Courses
   This course has been developed from TELE 750, but with significantly different focus, as noted above.

3. APPROVAL HISTORY
   ECE Department Date: June 2003
   IT&E Graduate Committee Date: June 2003
   IT&E Dean Date:

4. SCHEDULING
   The course will be offered every semester, and possibly in the summer, as part of the TCOM program core element. The course would be available for both MS and MA in Telecommunications students who have completed 18 credit hours prior to the start of the course.
   Proposed Instructors: Dr. Mike Kelley, Dr. Jeremy Allnutt, Mr. Eliud Bonilla, and other faculty and
adjunct professors, who are qualified in this area

5. COURSE OUTLINE

(a) Syllabus
There is no set syllabus as the intent of the course is to discuss topical elements in telecommunications and to develop possible solutions, if indeed they exist. The spring 2003 outline is shown below as an example.
Week 1: Introduction and overview
Week 2: Stupidity and Greed: modern telecommunications management.
Week 3: Mergers and Bankruptcy – where is the promise of the ’96 Telecom Act?
Week 4: Mobile Telephony – Cellular and PCS; will 3G bring a killer ap.?
Week 5: Land Mobile: Nextel, the Moms and Pops; what happened to paging?
Week 6: Broadcast radio and television – diversity: what diversity?
Week 7: Multi-channel video – wired cable, wireless cable, DTH.
Week 8: Broadband – wired and wireless
Week 9: The satellite industry
Week 10: The digital revolution
Week 11: The computer industry – hardware, software, network management
Week 12: The computer industry – internets and intranets
Week 13: Trade barriers/Free Trade: International Telecommunications.
Week 14: Predictions – is telecom at last on the mend?
Week 15: Final Exam

Students are expected to develop a series of briefing documents, some for presentation in class, others for on-line discussion. Topics will be drawn from the above list, or students may elect, with approval, to brief the class on some other threats and/or opportunities, pressure points or challenges facing the telecom industry or a company in the industry. Based on the student’s chosen focus area in the MA or MS program, the student is free to range widely in their choice of topic, as long as it involves the student’s focus area and it applies to a specific telecommunications company, industry segment, telecom development, challenge, etc.

These briefings documents are no more than 3-5 pages, so other class members can read and then have time to ask you questions on line, including challenges the stated point of view. Topics will be coordinated carefully to make sure each student has a different topic or explores a different aspect of the same topic.

In addition to the Briefing Document, each student will write a paper (approximately 15-20 pages) on the same or a related but greatly expanded topic, which will be due no later than the last day of class.

The list of topics and areas given above were from the 2003/2004 courses and are subject to change. Topics substituted will be of the same complexity and challenge.

(b) Reading and reference material
There is no set primary or supplementary textbook. Students will be expected to research relevant material, whether journals, newspaper articles, FCC documents, the web, etc. in the preparation of their briefing documents and their final papers.

(c) Student Evaluation Criteria
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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Briefing paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
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<td>Class and/or any listserv participation; plus final exam</td>
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