599 PROJECT EVALUATION – Grading Rubric Descriptions

Recommended letter grade* (circle one) A+ (Passing Outstanding)   A (Passing)   A- (Passing Marginal)   B (Not Passing)

Category	Excellent – 5	Very Good – 4	Good – 3	Fair – 2	Poor - 1
Problem Statement	Provides clear, concise and precise problem statement at an appropriate level.	Problem statement is at an appropriate level, but may not be clear or concise.	Problem not stated clearly or with sufficient detail.	Superficially states the problem/problem not clear.	A more ambitious research topic should be selected.
Study and Documentation of Literature	Includes description and conceptualization of prior work and results. Demonstrates a high degree of originality and/or synthesis of different sources.	Prior work and results are discussed. Demonstrates originality and/or synthesis of different sources.	Some prior work and results are discussed, but context for problem not clear. May need to show more originality.	Prior work and results not adequately discussed. Need to synthesize information.	Context of this problem within the current literature is not defined.
Written Presentation	Accessible and appealing visual design; grammatical errors are rare and the style is clear, concise, and confident. Appropriate citations provided in the correct format.	Minor flaws in format; no major grammatical errors; some minor grammatical errors, but none that disrupt the style and easy reading of the report. Appropriate citations are included, but formatting may not be completely accurate.	Redesign to make information more accessible and appealing. Some major grammatical errors or frequent and distracting minor grammatical errors. Some citations are present, but may not be in appropriate format. May be missing some citations.	Design is difficult for user to navigate and locate information. Poor writing style, frequent major and minor grammatical errors interfere with reading; poor organization. Incomplete citations; not appropriately formatted.	Lacks usable document design and layout. Excessive errors in structure, organization, grammar, or mechanics that seriously interfere with reading the document. Citations lacking.
Oral Presentation	Presentation grabs audience attention, eye contact with multiple audience members, no fillers, presented with certainty, enthusiasm and confidence.	Strong and interesting presentation, eye contact with a few audience members, few fillers, presentation was confident and enthusiastic.	Good presentation following an outline, but lacks attention grabbers. May use fillers (um, uh) and confidence level not high. Work needed on Q&A.	Presentation is disorganized and lacks interest. Fillers used to distraction. Enthusiasm and confidence lacking. Work needed on Q&A.	Presentation skills need much work in all areas.
Presentation of Data	Highly informative graphics, appropriately placed to be understood in context, clearly and uniformly designed, easy to interpret.	Informative, uniform, intelligible, and support the content of the report.	Graphics may not clearly support objectives or may be ornamental. May be missing key information such as labels or appropriate scale.	Poorly designed graphics, absent, ornamental, or offer no support to the content of the report.	Graphics may be absent, poorly designed, irrelevant, or unintelligible.
Project Outcomes	Excellent research outcomes; exhibits a clear sense of unity and purpose.	Research outcomes achieved.	Research outcomes apparent, but may require further development.	Minimal outcomes achieved. Needs to exhibit more independent work.	Few or no outcomes from research.
Overall Project	Meets and exceeds all standards; completely accomplishes the goals of the assignment; Excellent work overall.	Presents content clearly and displays a firm grasp of the technical material, but lacking the sharp focus and perspective of an excellent presentation.	A competent project that meets the standards adequately but may contain several flaws in concept development, details, structure, design or accuracy.	A marginally acceptable project that forces the audience to do too much work to understand because of serious problems.	An unacceptable project that does not address the expectations.
Prospects for Success in a Graduate Program	Regularly shares new insights with advisor and other researchers. Knows related papers, industry standards and products in detail. Demonstrates a deep understanding of theoretical and systems methodologies employing.	Shares some new insights with advisor and sometimes others. Knows some related papers and industry standards. Demonstrates an understanding of theoretical and systems methodologies employing.	Shares some insights, but with a limited group. May know related papers and industry standards **or** demonstrate understanding of theoretical and systems methodologies employing.	Responds to advisor requests, but not yet showing own insights. Has some knowledge of related papers and industry standards. Has some holes in understanding of methodologies.	Working to satisfy an advisor by responding to requests. Not being proactive in the process. May know some of the industry standard. Demonstrates a limited understanding of methodologies.

*Student must receive a grade of A+, A or A- to pass ELEC 599 and continue in the ECE PhD program. Failing grades will be determined by recommendation of the committee members and final evaluation by the ECE Graduate Committee.