

Policy for 590 and 591

The graduate committee has approved the following program of study (POS) policy changes with respect to courses 590 and 591 (any course prefix). All changes will go into effect as of Fall 2008. Any previously approved POS will not be affected by these new policies.

Policy for 590

A reading and conference course, 590, allows students to learn material that is not offered in a regular course. Such courses are typically designed for more senior students who have exhausted the regular curriculum and need new material to do their research. These courses also allow students the opportunities to learn of recent advances in their respective disciplines. A 590 course may also serve as an opportunity for faculty and students to come together and tackle new topics that may not be directly related to their research. To maintain consistency in our graduate programs and to ensure that students at ASU have adequate fundamental mathematical knowledge, the graduate committee has approved the following:

1. Reading and conference courses within the department can only be assigned a Y or Z grade.
2. Masters students may have up to three credit hours of 590 (from any department or with any prefix) with a grade of Y on their program of study. No other letter grades are acceptable.
3. Ph.D. students may have up to nine credit hours of 590 (from any department or with any prefix) with a grade of Y on their program of study. No other letter grades are acceptable.

Students will be able to petition the graduate committee for additional reading course allowances under special circumstances. Please also note that 590 is not equivalent to either 592 or 792, which are research courses for the MA and It is difficult to have a meaningful experience in a 500 level reading course without adequate preparation. Ph.D. degrees respectively.

Policy for 591

The Department is strongly in favor of active student participation from students in seminar courses. The graduate committee has therefore agreed upon the following policy for 591 credit hours with respect to the POS and general course credit:

1. Requirement for one credit hour (not on POS): Register Pass/Fail. Students must attend all talks.
2. Requirement for three credit hours (not on POS): Register for standard grading. Students must attend all talks. Students must present a regular length seminar talk on a pre-approved topic. Under special circumstances other requirements may be substituted.
3. Requirement for three credit hours (on POS): Register for standard grading. Students must attend all talks and present two regular length seminar talks on pre-approved topics (or two parts of the same topic). Student may instead present one lecture and write up summaries of at least three different talks to be graded by the course instructor. If the seminar schedule does not allow students time slots to speak, they may instead either (1) speak in another seminar or (2) substitute another suitable activity determined by the course instructor. Under special circumstances the course instructor may propose a different set of requirements.
4. The maximum number of credit hours on a POS is three for masters students and nine for Ph.D. students.