Course Objectives:
The main aim of this research seminar is to get a broader understanding of contemporary research topics at the intersection of Information Systems and Organizations. To accomplish this, the first half of this seminar will provide a brief overview of theories used to understand organizations as well as emphasize the role of qualitative research methods.

The second half of the seminar will look at contemporary research in emerging IS areas such as Healthcare Information Systems and Digital Infrastructure. The topics examined in these sessions have been chosen somewhat arbitrarily both to minimize the overlap with your previous IS research seminars as well as to maximize the relevance of theories covered for your future needs.

Course Format
As is the norm with most seminar courses, the instructor will act more as a facilitator than as a lecturer. Hence, it is important that you keep abreast of the assigned readings, reflect on them and participate actively in class. You will be responsible for not only your learning, but also the learning of your colleagues through the discussions that occur in-class. Given the small size of the class, please note that the themes and the papers assigned are tentative and may change based on the background of students in class.

Course Requirements:
General Participation: Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings assigned for the week. The discussions are expected to go beyond summaries of individual papers to touch on various themes that link the papers together. Participation naturally includes other activities you will be assigned from time-to-time.

Discussant Role: While the students are expected to read all papers assigned for a particular week and write weekly memos, each student will be assigned as a discussant to individual papers. The discussant should
prepare a list of discussion questions for the paper and as well as make a presentation of his/her thoughts on the paper. The interactive presentation must go beyond summarizing the paper and should facilitate discussion among participants. Please bring a printed copy of the discussion questions to distribute to other students in class.

Weekly Memos: You are required to write a 1-2 page memo for each class (from Week #2). The memo should go beyond summarizing the paper to include your reflections (including substantive discussion questions) on the readings of the week in its entirety. Please send your weekly memos directly to me via email by Tuesday at 10 pm.

Research Proposal/Paper: The participants in the seminar are also expected to write a research paper with special emphasis on organizational IS.

Evaluation:

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Required Books


Tentative Course Readings:

Week 1: Introduction


Van De Ven, Chapter 1, Engaged Scholarship: A Guide for Organizational and Social Research

Week 2: Methods, Perspectives (Tentative)


Myers, Michael. Qualitative Research in Information Systems: http://www.qual.auckland.ac.nz/

Optional:


Week 3: Images of Organizations I

Gareth Morgan, Chapters TBA

Week 4: Images of Organizations II

Gareth Morgan, Chapters TBA

Week 5: IS Strategy/Business Value

Oh, Wonseok, and Alain Pinsonneault. 2007. “On the Assessment of the


**Week 6: Interlude: Qualitative Research Methods**

Weiss, Learning From Strangers, Chapters TBA

Goodwin and Horowitz, 2002, Methodological Strengths and Dilemmas of Qualitative Sociology


More Readings TBA

**Week 7: Healthcare Information Systems**


**Week 8: Security/Privacy**


**Week 9: Offshoring/Outsourcing**


**Week 10: FLOSS/ESS**


**Week 11: Infrastructure/Platforms**


**Week 12: Topic to be chosen and designed by Student**

**Week 13: Topic to be chosen and designed by Student**

**Week 14: Topic to be chosen and designed by Student**