This research seminar introduces students to various areas of research in the Information Systems field. For each area, students are expected to read, discuss, and present several papers, ranging from seminal studies to current ones. All students are expected to come to class ready to discuss all the papers critically. Some examples of what all students in the class should be ready to discuss at all times include:

1. What is the main theoretical basis for the study? Is it appropriate? If not, which would you use?
2. Describe the research design. Are there any limitations? Do you have alternative suggestions that would answer the same research questions?
3. Is the data analysis appropriate? Are there any statistical problems?
4. What are the main theoretical contributions? Are there any additional ones? Is the contribution significant enough?

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS:

In addition to having read all the papers for the week and be ready to discuss them, students will also be given individual weekly assignments:

- Each week, one student will be assigned one paper to present to the class. The student is responsible for preparing and presenting a very quick summary of the paper and a more thorough critical review of it. The student should present a list of questions, comments, suggestions, and criticisms that will help lead the discussion of the paper. The presentation should be a maximum of 30 minutes, preferably closer to 20 minutes.

- In addition, each student will be assigned one or two papers each week. For each paper, they will prepare a one-page (single-spaced) report where they will briefly answer the following questions:
  o What do you think was the main theoretical contribution of the paper? Briefly discuss.
  o Describe one thing in the paper/study that you thought was interesting/intriguing/different and explain why you thought so.
  o Provide one suggestion of how another researcher (such as yourself) could create a new research study based on one or more of the contributions of the paper.
- What did you not understand from the paper? List any major questions you may have and we’ll try to answer them in class.
- Students should email their one-page reports to everyone in the class at least 24 hours before the next class session. We will use them as starting points for our discussion.

**FINAL PAPER**

In addition to the weekly assignments, students are also required to write a full research paper proposal. The proposal must describe a study that is unique and thoroughly described. It should basically include everything that a final, publishable paper will include (introduction, theoretical discussion, full literature review, complete study design and methodology, expected data analysis method, potential theoretical contributions, and so on). Only the actual data analysis and discussion of actual results should be missing from the paper. Students should be able to complete the research after the completion of the class.

The topic of the final paper must be approved by me in advance.

Students will present the paper in class on the last session of the semester and will then respond to questions from the rest of the class. They will use the questions and comments to improve the final paper. The final version of the paper will be due to me by email by **May 19th at midnight**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

**GRADE**

- Weekly assignments: 30%
- Final paper: 50%
- Class participation: 20%

**COURSE OUTLINE**

(Articles with an asterisk will be presented in class by the student assigned to them)

**February 1st: Introduction**

**Readings:**


**Optional:**
“That's Interesting! Towards a Phenomenology of Sociology and a Sociology of Phenomenology”, Murray S. Davis, Philosophy of the Social Sciences, 1971 vol.1, pp.309-344

**February 8th: The IS discipline – Publishing your research**

**Readings:**


**Optional:**

Watson, Richard T. (2014) "A Personal Perspective on a Conceptual Foundation for Information Systems," *Journal of the Association for Information Systems*: Vol. 15: Iss. 8, Article 1. Available at: [http://aisel.aisnet.org/jais/vol15/iss8/1](http://aisel.aisnet.org/jais/vol15/iss8/1)

**February 22nd: IT and the user**

**Readings:**


**March 1st: IT and the user**

**Readings:**


**March 8th: IT and the user**

**Readings:**


**WEDNESDAY 9:30am-11:30am** **March 17th: IT and the group**

**Readings:**


**Optional:**

**March 22nd: IT and the group**

**Readings:**


**April 5th: IT and the organization**

Readings:


* Dennis, Alan R.; Minas, Randall K.; and Lockwood, Nicholas S. (2016) "Mapping the Corporate Blogosphere: Linking Audience, Content, and Management to Blog Visibility," *Journal of the Association for Information Systems*: Vol. 17 : Iss. 3 , Article 2. Available at: [http://aisel.aisnet.org/jais/vol17/iss3/2](http://aisel.aisnet.org/jais/vol17/iss3/2) (Lisa)

**April 12th: IT and the organization**

Readings:


**April 19th: IT and organization**

Readings:


**April 26th: IT and organizational strategy**

Readings:


Optional:

**May 3rd: IT and markets, industries, society**

Readings:


May 10th: IT and markets, industries, society

Readings:


May 17th: Final Research Proposal presentations

NOTES:
1. The following article can be used to guide students who wish to write literature review papers:


2. The following article provides a research agenda in IS for big data research:


3. The following article describes how crowdsourcing on Amazon’s Mechanical Turk can be used for recruitment of study subjects: