

Course Number INFS 797 003 / IT 950 Design and Management Aspects of IS

Thursday 4:30 - 7:10 pm ST I room 120

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Home: Ask for it (unlisted, so don't look for it)

GMU office hours: Monday and Thursday 2:30 - 4:15 == S&T II Room 359 or phone/e-mail for an appointment

Course Description:

Student will read and discuss research papers published during the past year in major research journals catering to Information Systems and Management professionals. Student should be either late in their MS degree program or working towards a PhD with some knowledge of economics, business practices, applicable mathematics and statistics, and some concepts in organizational behavior or psychology.

Course Objectives:

To expose students to the major recent research literature in the Information Systems and Management field and to help them understand the needs and contents of first class research papers in preparation for theses and future Academic or professional life.

Teaching Format:

Each week, three papers have been selected for reading and presentation in the next week's class.

Three students will be selected for each week:

- One will spend about an hour discussing and critiquing the material in the paper; this class member need not read the other papers
- Two students will jointly present the material in the other papers and then critique them for a total of about an hour each. These two students will read all three papers.
- All students not presenting that week will read all three papers and be expected to join in discussion of all three papers.

Thus all the discussion will be led by students but the lecturer will participate in discussion and steer discussion to any important points or related topics.

Grading Standard:

The grade will be as computed as follows:

- Presentations and critiques throughout the semester 50%
- General course participation PhDs; 20% MSs 30%

- Final paper (PhD students 30%; Ms students 20%)

Reference/Text: None

Course Content/Progress/Documents

All papers to be read will be available on line. They will be selected from papers published in the past six months in the following Journals:

Harvard Business Review	Sloan Management Review	
Information & Management	Journal of MIS	DSS
Management Sciences	MIS Quarterly	
Journal of IS	Journal of Organizational computing and electronic commerce	

Student Requirements

The first week is introductory and Professor Sibley will discuss the topics and set the schedule.

During the following weeks, students will be assigned articles published in the last 12 months. The list of papers is available on line. Members of the class will be expected to contribute to all discussions.

Some reading material will have been chosen as example of poor material, poor research, or dubious analysis -- you will decide which!

Possible questions to ask when reading the paper are:

1. Is this paper currently interesting and dealing with a useful topic?
2. Is the model/case/method well described?
3. Do the results appear to be valid and the analysis correct?
4. Are the conclusions speculative and biased to the author's views?
5. Was this a mere extension of other work (possibly by other people)?
6. Why did the editor accept this?

A short **eight** page paper will be due in the last two weeks of the semester, It should be an appraisal of a research area. The write-up should include and comment on a short list of any [recent] papers that have been found dealing with the topic → This might be used as a proposed thesis literature review.