BCIS 6010
Ph.D. Seminar in IS Theory and Research Topics

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Dan J. Kim
Email: Dan.Kim@unt.edu (preferred contact method)
Phone: (940) 369 - 8942
Office: 312D Business Leadership Building (BLB)
Class Hours: Thursday 2:00 – 4:50 PM
Class Room: BLB 281
Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 11:00 - 12:00 AM (or by appointment)
Course Web Site: ecampus.unt.edu

Required Textbooks
- No textbooks are required
- All the required readings can be retrieved from the course website
- Digital contents and online resources will be used (see the session, useful resources)

COURSE OVERVIEW

This seminar course is designed to help doctoral students to understand key research themes and issues in Information Systems (IS). The main objective of this course is to acquaint students with the research approaches and procedures used in IS area and to encourage them to formulate research proposals suitable for dissertation purposes.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and evaluate potential researchable areas
- Study, analyze and critique key IS theories
- Examine different research methodologies in the context of IS research
- Conduct literature review on a suitable research topic
- Understand the professional article review process and critique papers
- Understand research paper writing processes
- Develop writing skills of research paper for conference proceedings or journal publications

Grading

The final letter grades for this course will be determined based on following:

1. Class participation (50%)
2. Research paper project (50%)

Class Participation: 50%
Class attendance is mandatory. Each student is expected to actively participate in every class. The final grade will be determined on the basis of the quality of student’s preparation and participation. It is core of this course to read and critical analyze the reading and then actively participate in the discussion of the issues in class.

Each student will be responsible for leading the discussion over the course of the semester.
a. Write-up, presentation, and discussion

One student will be assigned primary responsibility for each article. As a discussion leader, that student has to: 1) **prepare a single spaced 1-2 page write-up** and a 10-15 minute opening presentation of the assigned article BEFORE the class, 2) **distribute a copy of the write-up** at class, 3) **present a summary of the key points**, 4) **lead the subsequent class discussion**, and 5) **submit a revised write-up** reflected the class discussion to me AFTER the class. A sample template of write-up will be given.

After presenting a summary of the key points, **the subsequent class discussion** is the key element of class participation, which should have at least three components.

a) Assessment of key contributions in terms of theory and practice
b) Discussion of the strengths and weakens, and
c) Presentation of future (possible your) work that can build on the study

**The revised write-up** should be a written repository of the summary and interpretation of the article by the class and will be shared through a class website. Ultimately, all write-ups will be useful compilations for doctoral qualification exam preparation.

b. Review and critic

An important aspect of being an academic is peer-reviewing the quality of others’ research, and helping them to improve their work. You will be given a couple of manuscripts to review. You should fill out the MISQ review form. Additional information will be provided in class.

**Research Paper Project: 50%**

Each student will also be required to prepare either **a complete empirical research paper or a theoretical/review paper** in the information systems area.

**For the empirical research paper project**, four key elements should be in place: a) The paper should address an substantial issue in the area of study.; b) You should have an empirical data in hand or possibly collaborate with other person who has an empirical data.; c) It should have a strong theoretical perspective – it would be good idea to expand from or build on existing theory.; d) It should explicitly address unique theatrical and practical contributions.

**For the theoretical/review project**, I expect you produce a theory review paper that would be publishable as an MISQ Review piece. It should have the following four elements: a) A research topic area where there is diverse research that can benefit from synthesis in order to clarify knowledge coalesced; b) It should promote research by surveying and synthesizing prior theoretical and empirical research - it could possibly involve meta-analysis.; c) It should clearly discuss future research directions.; d) Finally, it should act as a repository for the knowledge that has been accumulated on an important topic within the information systems field and advance theory in that topic area.

This assignment especially aims to help you in developing and writing a paper the thesis proposal. Details concerning the content of each phase, due dates for submission and revisions are provided below. Note
that to maintain satisfactory progress toward a timely completion of the paper, it is essential that you submit your best-effort drafts by the specified due dates.

a. First Phase (P1): Topic Analysis and Proposal
Describe the substantive issue under investigation and be specific as possible about:
- The related knowledge and other relevant background information
- Research paper purpose
- Research paper objective and research questions
- Potential contributions to knowledge and implications

b. Second Phase (P2): Literature Review and Conceptual Model
Set a conceptual testable model and frame it in the context of the literature:
- Describe overall rationale of your theory
- Specify available your model (either empirical or analytic model)
- Identify the main constructs for your model
- Identify the relationships between the constructs
- Conduct an extensive literature review
- Attach a drawing of the conceptual model

c. Third Phase (P3): Theory Building: Hypothesis and Methodology
Students should suggest research design:
- Describe how you intend to test the model
- Formulate a set of testable hypotheses concerning the relationships between the constructs
- Identify possible data sources and each of the hypothesized relationships
- Identify possible scales or other applicable instruments
- Attach a table that lists the constructs, their definitions, and their main references.

d. Fourth Phase (P4): Final Paper and Presentation
- The final paper should be about 14 pages in single space including references. You can use the ICIS submission guideline of complete research paper

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

The following pages provide basic information about the class schedule and each of the items above. Additional information will be provided in class. The scheduled dates for deliverables are subject to change, but all changes will be discussed in class. All students must turn in required work at the scheduled times except for emergencies.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignment and Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W1</td>
<td>Aug. 25</td>
<td>Course introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>What is research?</td>
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<tr>
<td>W2</td>
<td>Sep. 1</td>
<td>What do we study?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Sep. 8</td>
<td>What is theory?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>W4</td>
<td>Sep. 15</td>
<td>How to conduct a literature review</td>
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<tr>
<td>W5</td>
<td>Sep. 22</td>
<td>How to publish your paper?</td>
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<td>W6</td>
<td>Sep. 29</td>
<td>Selected Topic: IT value and IS success</td>
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<tr>
<td>W7</td>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>Selected Topic: Information Systems Security</td>
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<td>W8</td>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>Midterm break</td>
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<td>W9</td>
<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>Selected Topic: Information Privacy</td>
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<td>W10</td>
<td>Oct. 27</td>
<td>Selected Topic: Trust in E-commerce</td>
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<td>W11</td>
<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>Selected Topic: Social Media</td>
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<td>W12</td>
<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>Selected Topic: Virtual Team and Virtual World</td>
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<td>W13</td>
<td>Nov. 17</td>
<td>Selected Topic: Technology and Culture</td>
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<td>W14</td>
<td>Nov. 24</td>
<td>New research directions</td>
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<tr>
<td>W15</td>
<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td>Research paper presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>W16</td>
<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td>Final week</td>
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Note: 1) The schedule and course outline are subject to change, depending on class pace and needs. The instructor reserves the rights to make any changes needed. 2) According to University regulations, a grade of Incomplete can only be given if the student is currently passing the course. This is only given when circumstances prevent you from completing the semester.

**USEFUL RESOURCES**

- Qualitative Research in Information Systems [http://www.qual.auckland.ac.nz/](http://www.qual.auckland.ac.nz/)

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

The standards of academic integrity of the University of North Texas will be strictly enforced. Please refer to the undergraduate handbook for details. Students cannot use any assignments that have been part of earlier sections of the course. Cheating will not be tolerated. Students found cheating will receive a grade of F for the course and subject to further disciplinary action by University of North Texas.

**Plagiarism** is defined as presenting another person’s work or ideas as one’s own. You are expected to do your work on all assignments. Students who plagiarize will receive a Fail grade in the course.

Please refer to the links below for the course ground rules and academic honesty policy in details. [http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf](http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf)