Course Overview

This seminar presents an introduction to qualitative research methods employed in Logistics and Supply Chain Management (LSCM) research. The philosophical and methodological foundations are largely built upon the philosophies, theories, and methods from other disciplines, including the physical sciences, sociology, psychology, and mathematics. In this course, we survey a variety of philosophical perspectives and qualitative methods by reading the original works, critical responses to these works, and representative applications of these ideas in the LSCM domain.

Topics covered may include: (1) the domain and scope of qualitative research methods employed in logistics and supply chain management; (2) the use of confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) and structural equations modeling (SEM) in the logistics and supply chain management literature; (3) the application of the scientific method to research in logistics and supply chain management; (4) experimental design in logistics and supply chain management research; (5) the use of case studies in LSCM research; and (6) the construction, use, and analysis of surveys in LSCM research.

Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor

Course Structure, Workload, and Grading

Students are required to read all assigned articles with an individual student designated to make a presentation to the class on each assigned article. Non-presenting students will submit a one page summary of each article prior to the class meeting that an article is scheduled for presentation. Introductory and background material for each topic below may be presented by the instructor prior to student presentations. After the instructor’s presentation of the introductory and background material, designated students will then present no more than 40 minute critiques and summaries of assigned articles. The presentations will describe as applicable: the issues addressed, the research methodologies employed, the sources of data, the research findings, the theoretical contributions offered, the relevance for setting managerial policy, and the shortcomings or limitations of the research. Each presentation may include handout materials, PowerPoint slides, or other visual aids.

One of the goals of this class is to prepare students for the LSCM comprehensive exam. Consequently, there will be a final examination in the same format as the in-class portion of the LSCM comprehensive exam. The final exam will comprise two questions derived from material covered in the course. You will have two hours to answer the questions on the exam. I will find a computerized classroom so that you may use a computer in completing the final exam.
Your final class grade will be determined by (1) the quality of your assigned presentations (40%) as evaluated by your peers, (2) your overall contributions to class discussions (10%), and (3) your final exam (50%).

**Office Hours:** By appointment.

**Class Schedule and Preliminary Schedule of Topics:** We will meet in the JC Penney Building North, John W. Barriger III Conference Room.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/12/2012 10am-2pm</td>
<td>Introduction to CFA and SEM Modeling</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/13/2012 10am-2pm</td>
<td>Introduction to CFA and SEM Modeling</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/30/2012 10am-2pm</td>
<td>CFA and SEM Modeling in LSCM Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/06/2012 1pm-5pm</td>
<td>Case Studies in LSCM Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/14/2012 10am-2pm</td>
<td>Survey Related Issues in LSCM Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/20/2012 3pm-7pm</td>
<td>Survey Related Issues in LSCM Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/27/2012 1pm-5pm</td>
<td>Other Issues in LSCM Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/03/2012 10am-2pm</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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**Course Materials:** Course materials will be available at the MyGateway website, the library, or distributed in class as needed. Instructor lectures in PowerPoint format will be posted to the course website no later than four hours prior to beginning of class on the day of class meetings.

**Class Attendance and Preparation:** Please come to class on time, prepared and with cell phones turned off. Late arrival is disruptive for other students. You should prepare for class by reading the assigned materials before class and by completing all relevant assignments.

**Drop Policy:** If you drop the course before the completion of the fourth weekly meeting, you will receive a grade of "Excused". If you drop after that time, you will receive an "Excused" or "Failing" grade based on your work at the time the instructor receives written notification that you are dropping the course.

**Academic Honesty:** According to the University Standard of Conduct, Section 6.0101, “The Board of Curators recognizes that academic honesty is essential for the intellectual life of the University. Faculty members have a special obligation to expect high standards of academic honesty in all student work. Students have a special obligation to adhere to such standards." Any student who is caught cheating on any exam or assignment will receive a grade of zero for that assignment or exam. Further, a recommendation may be made to the appropriate university officials that additional formal disciplinary action be taken.

**Disabilities:** This University abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which stipulates that no student shall be denied the benefits of an education solely by reason of a disability. If anyone has a health
condition or disability which may require accommodations in order to effectively participate in this class, please contact the Disability Access Services Office in 144 Millennium Student Center at 516-6554.

Course Readings

The following articles are intended to provide readings for the various topical areas listed in the syllabus and will serve as the subjects of assigned student presentations:

**CFA and SEM Modeling in LSCM Research**


**Case Studies in LSCM Research**

**Survey Related Issues in LSCM Research**


**Other Issues in LSCM Research**
