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General Information

- IS Home Page: http://mis.umsl.edu/
- Computing Information: http://www.umsl.edu/technology/
- Advanced MIS Lab Information: http://mis.umsl.edu/MISlab.html
- Library Information: http://www.umsl.edu/services/library/library.html

Texts:

Articles: see reading list

Supplemental Materials

- Class Web Site: http://www.umsl.edu/~sauter/7892/index.html
- IS World Research Links: http://www.isworld.org/#research
- Theories in IS Research: http://www.istheory.yorku.ca/
- JAVA Script Help: http://www.umsl.edu/~sauter/help/Links_java.html

Prerequisites: Only students officially admitted to the Ph.D. Program in Information Systems are allowed to register for class. In addition, students must have completed IS 5800 and IS 6840.

Course Description: The official description of the class is:

*Advanced topics of current interest in management information systems. Content to be determined each time the course is offered. May be repeated for credit.*

The unofficial and working description of the class is: a seminar in the topics of systems analysis and design. Hence, it has become known as “the technical seminar.”

Semester Goals: This class addresses a series of questions: Why is there not more IS research directed toward systems analysis and design? Clearly these topics are critical for effective business applications in the 21st Century. However, most of the development and drive comes from industry. Why? If the development and drive come from industry, is this a good thing or a bad thing? What kinds of research agendas might be developed to address these questions? How might we apply the theories addressed in your other seminars to address questions of systems analysis and design?
Exams: There will be a midterm and a final exam, and both will be take home exams and due on the date stated below.

- Midterm exam: March 7
- Final exam: May 10

Grading Policy: The following proportions will be used for grading.

- Website: 5%
- Class Participation: 10%
- Discussion Leading: 10%
- Paper: 35%
- Midterm: 20%
- Final: 20%

Course Format: Classes will often be student led discussion of research projects. Papers will be assigned to a student who will review the research (see below). All students will be expected to contribute to the discussion by identifying the strengths, weaknesses and extensions of the research. Since this is a class of questions, students will be asked not only to discuss the assigned readings, but to bring to the discussion readings from other classes or outside readings.

Reviewing Research: When reviewing a research paper, you should address each of the following issues:

1. What is the research question? What is the problem in the real world?
2. Who cares about the question, and why is it important?
3. What else has been done in the literature?
4. How will the authors address the issue?
5. Do the authors provide a theory as a basis for their approach to studying the issue?
6. How will they operationalize the variables in the study?
7. Are the variable definitions (both conceptual and operational) clear?
8. Does the methodology test the hypothesis as it is stated?
9. What are the results?
10. What do the results mean?
11. Do the results follow logically from the analysis?
12. Who cares about the results and why are they important?
13. What does this contribute to the literature?
14. How do these results help practitioners?
15. What is the next step in the research program? (What questions does this research suggest for future research)?

Research Proposals: Each student will create a proposal for research on some topic of systems analysis and design. You should think of these proposals as a first step in creating a publishable journal article. As such, the proposals should answer the same questions that area addressed when reviewing research (see above). Select a topic that is interesting to you. Perform a preliminary literature search to ensure that your idea has not already been completed and that you have a fresh approach. You may want to consult with the instructor about topics and the literature.

Submit a preliminary proposal for a topic by March 15. The instructor will make copies of the proposals and distribute them to your mailboxes on March 16. On March 21, each person will present his or her ideas to the class for discussion. Please plan for no more than 15 minutes for your presentation. Other students should have read the proposals and be prepared for discussion.

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.

For the purposes of this class, cheating will include: plagiarism (using the writings of another without proper citation), copying of another (either current or past student's work), working with another on individually assigned work or exams, unauthorized marking on a graded paper or exam, or in any other way presenting as one's own work that which is not entirely one's own work.

Any student who is caught cheating on any assignment or exam will receive a grade of zero (0) for that assignment or exam. Further, a recommendation will be made to the appropriate university officials that additional disciplinary action be taken.

Tutorials on Plagiarism exist at the following sites:
  - http://education.indiana.edu/~frick/plagiarism/item1.html
  - http://panther.indstate.edu/tutorials/plagiarism

**Rights and Responsibilities of Computer Users**

As part of its educational and research missions, the University of Missouri-St. Louis strives to provide quality computing facilities. These include large and small systems, communication networks, and personal computers, as well as associated software, files and data. Although computers affect how individuals communicate and interact with each other, computers do not change underlying societal values and established individual rights with respect to personal privacy and ownership of property. Computing facilities are recognized as community resources. Each computer user, therefore, is expected to act responsibly so as not to violate the rights of others. Access to computing resources is contingent upon prudent and responsible use. Inappropriate use of computing services and facilities will not be tolerated and may result in loss of computing privileges. In addition, disciplinary and/or legal action will be pursued for violation of these codes and statutes through appropriate University procedures.

**Reading List**

**Introduction**

- Forrester, J.W., “Designing the Future,” A Presentation made at Universidad de Sevilla, December 15,
1998, D-4726.
• Marcus, L., “Thinking the Unthinkable: What Happens if the IS Field as we Know it Goes Away?”

How do we know if we are successful in Systems Analysis and Design?

What guides our processes?
• Herbsleb, J., D. Zubrow, D. Goldenson, W. Hayes and M. Paulk, “Software Quality and the Capability


**What should be the focus of our analysis?**


**What can/should we measure given our focus of analysis?**


**What do we need to know?**