

ISM 788: IS Research Methods

Dr. A. F. Salam Associate Professor	Spring 2021 Information Systems and Supply Chain Management Department (ISSCM)
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Office Hours: Thursdays 4 to 5 pm and by appointment (Zoom Session)	The Bryan School of Business and Economics
Class Meeting Location and Time: Bryan 433 Thursdays 1 pm to 4 pm	University of North Carolina at Greensboro

NOTE: ENTIRE COURSE SCHEDULE IS ON MAIN CANVAS PAGE INCLUDING WEEKLY MATERIALS TO BE COVERED AND ANY ASSIGNMENTS AND/OR EXAM DETAILS

Note: You will need to log-in to UNCG Canvas System to access course related materials

Course Description:

Information Systems (IS) Research Methods is a core requirement in the Information Systems (IS) Ph.D. Program in the ISSCM Department. This course is central in providing doctoral students with in-depth appreciation of and exposure to the various research methods used in conducting research in information systems and related disciplines. These research methods are varied in nature and are drawn from various disciplines to equip students to become thoughtful and engaged scholars. Information Systems research tend to be very complex. Since any research question(s) that is likely to advance our knowledge in the IS discipline, for both the academics and practitioners, inevitably involves interplay among information technology, human behavior and larger organizational and social contexts. It is therefore imperative that students become intimately familiar with the individual research methods and how they relate to the notion of theory building or theory testing in the context of developing credible and high quality research. Students should be able to identify and justify necessary research methods to assess proposed theoretical models. To accomplish this end, it is necessary not only to read research articles published in some of the elite journals in the IS and sister disciplines, but also to develop appreciation for writing and communicating research ideas in the most effective manner. This course is designed to help doctoral students acquire the necessary skills addressing some of the issues identified above.

Course Materials and Requirements:

This course primarily uses research papers drawn from various elite journals in the IS and sister disciplines. The instructor will make these research papers available through the UNCG CANVAS System in time. The number of research papers to be discussed each week will vary depending upon the topic or research methods being considered. **It is anticipated that about four to six research papers may be discussed each week. Some weeks will cover specific chapters from the Required Textbooks as well (See Canvas Course Schedule).**

Student Requirements:

Just a note, this course will make significant demand on the students and their ability to think beyond what is presented in the research papers. It is NOT sufficient to read the papers. Students are expected to understand each research paper and then be able to integrate diverse set of concepts from across the set of articles covered in each class discussion.

Learning Objectives: At the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze and assess various research methods and their possible contribution to information systems research
- Examine various concepts, research models in relation to the application of different research methods in information systems research
- Evaluate and assess the merits and weaknesses of different research methods used in IS research

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Please log-in to the UNCG Canvas Course Site for ISM 788 or visit UNCG Bookstore ISM 788 Page for details for the three required Textbooks for this course.

Note: Order these Textbooks ASAP either hardcopy or eBook (either option is acceptable)

Note: One free eBook (Textbook) will be made available on Predictive Analytics theory (Stanford University).

Evaluation and Grading:

The evaluation of student performance will be based on the following components and following grading scale will be used in this course:

95-100 = A, 90-94 = A-, 86-89= B+, 82-85= B, 80-82=B-, 76-79=C+, 73-75=C, 70-72=C-, 69 and lower is F

Course Activities	Percentage of Grade
Weekly Integrative Write-up of Answers To Questions and/or Integrative Summary and/or Presentations or in-class activities Details will be provided in time	20%
AMOS (Covariance SEM), SMARTPLS (PLS SEM) and Predictive Analytics (Large Data Sets) Hands-on Assignments (Total 3)	30%
Debate Paper I: Ontology, Epistemology and	15%

Course Activities	Percentage of Grade
Research Methods	
Midterm Exam (Take Home) Debate Paper II Details will be provided in time	15%
Final Take Home Exam Reflective of Comprehensive Exam Details will be provided in time	20%

Note: It is possible that a student may earn a grade of B or below in this course. So, a real and substantial effort is expected.

Class Discussion and Participation and In-Class Activities:

It is expected that each student will make meaningful contribution to each class discussion. By meaningful discussion, I refer to a contribution that advances our understanding of the concepts being discussed. **This does NOT mean just mere recitation of what the authors have written word for word.** We all will have read the articles before each class meeting. Therefore, it is NOT at all useful to repeat what is in the article but rather to provide a unique perspective on the concepts or theories discussed in one or more of the articles. just based on the articles to be discussed each week and addressing the questions posed. The weekly integrative summary should be **NO more than four double-spaced pages** 11point fonts with 1inch margin on all sides.

Debate Paper I and II Requirements (Debate Paper or Research Project):

Students are required to write a research paper as part of this seminar. This research project or debate paper(s) provides a mechanism through which each student applies various aspects of conducting quality research beginning with carrying out literature review, justifying research methods or identifying central arguments in academic debates, constructing convincing discussion and writing effectively for academic publication. To this end, the following items comprise various aspects of this research project and/or debate paper(s):

Table : Breakdown of Assigned 15% of the Grade

In-depth literature review and substantiation of research question(s)	5%
Identification and Justification of Central Arguments in the Literature	5%
Effective Academic Writing and Communication	5%

Note: Since it is not possible to cover all types of research methods effectively in one semester, students are encouraged to read and study other research methods that are not listed in the schedule (see Canvas Main Page for Semester Schedule) but which may be of interest to them for their own research.

Honor Code Policies: University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials,

forgery, and/or plagiarism. Students will NOT make, borrow, or “share” copies of their project assignments or files with other students. **Plagiarism is defined as presenting as one’s own work that work which is, in whole or in part, the work of another person or persons without giving proper credit to the appropriate source (this includes any published material available on the Internet).** This includes submitting work done by another as one’s own work. Helping one another to understand concepts and issues is allowed, but copying violates UNCG Honor Code Policy. No credit will be received for work that falls under plagiarism, and other penalties may be imposed. **Please refer to the UNCG Honor Code Policies.**

Please note: Appropriate citation of sources used in research papers must adhere to accepted standard format and is a requirement of this course. Failure to do so will be considered a violation of the UNCG Honor Code Policies. Please consult with the instructor if you have any questions.

