Aims & Objectives
This course is designed as a seminar course on research methods as it is used in the field of information systems. It balances the acquisition of fundamental knowledge about the conduct of research (both qualitative and quantitative) with the application of that knowledge to research on information systems. The balance is reflected in the reading materials, which consist of basic text and advanced research articles in IS top-tier journals. Students participating in the course will acquire skills in developing research proposals, making and justifying methodological choices, writing quality research manuscripts, and understanding the rigor and standards required to publish information systems research in top-tier journals.

Teaching Modes

Synopsis
This course provides a review of the research methods paired with appropriate journal article exemplars in information systems. The course covers both quantitative and qualitative approaches to research, including survey methodology, experimental methods, case studies and other qualitative approaches. Coupled with critiques and discussions of journal articles, the course should hone the research students' skills in developing a high quality research approach to their research problems.

Syllabus
Week 1: Course Introduction

Week 2: Foundation of Information Systems Research (1)

Exercise 1: A summary report covering the issues discussed.

Week 3: Foundation of Information Systems Research (2)
1. Chapters 1 to 4, *Social Research Methods* (Neuman) [*]
Week 4: Concept Development
1. Chapter 5, Social Research Methods (Neuman) [*]

Week 5: Scale Development and Operationalization (1)
1. Chapter 6 to 7, Social Research Methods (Neuman) [*]

Exercise 2: A summary report covering the issues discussed.

Week 6: Scale Development and Survey Design (2)
2. Teo, H. H., Wei, K. K., and Benbasat, I., “Predicting Intention to adopt Interorganizational Linkages: An Institutional Perspective,” *MIS Quarterly*, vol. 27, no. 1, 2003, 19-49. [*]

Recess Week
Mid-semester break – Consultation/Progress Review

Week 7: Research Proposal (Part 1 - Your Research Question)
A presentation and a four pages report on the topic you are pursuing. Your write-up should cover the introduction (motivation), and the theoretical foundation (or literature review).

Week 8: Survey Design
Week 9: Experimental Design
1. Chapter 9, Social Research Methods (Neuman) [*]

Exercise 4: A summary report covering the issues discussed.

Week 10: Protocol Analysis

Exercise 4: A summary report covering the issues discussed.

Week 11: Qualitative Research (To be rescheduled due to public holiday)
1. Chapter 13, Social Research Methods (Neuman) [*]

Research Proposal Submission: Your write-up should now be complete and should include the hypotheses (propositions) development and the research method used (full details).

Week 12: Research Proposal Presentation (1)
(List of presenters and sequence of presentation will be determined later)

Week 13: Research Proposal Presentation (2)
(List of presenters and sequence of presentation will be determined later)

Note:
[+] - denotes key papers

**Assessment**

Grading (tentatively)

Summary Reports: 20%
Continuous Assessment: 20%
Research Proposal cum Presentation: 30%
Final Examination: 30%

**Expectations**

Every research student should be prepared for each class by reading the chapters and research articles thoroughly in advance. Each and everyone will be expected to contribute significantly to every class meeting.

Students are expected to behave in a mature manner by being punctual, by avoiding the use of cellular phones, and by not surfing on the Internet while the class is being conducted.

Plagiarism is a serious offence punishable by expulsion from the university. Students should also not submit recycled proposals that had been developed for other courses.

**Text & Readings**

*If LINC does not return any results, please try alternative searches (e.g title). Any errors encountered, please report to the lecturer and the library.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title and Author</th>
<th>Edition/Year</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches. Author: Lawerence W. Neuman</td>
<td>Sixth Edition / 2005</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Allyn and Bacon:</td>
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