Syllabus

Course Number: MSCC 697
Course Title: IT Research Methods

Course Description:
Students will analyze, evaluate and synthesize a body of knowledge in an Information Technology discipline in order to identify problems for further investigation. Students will develop a problem definition based on a body of knowledge.

Course Prerequisites:
MSCC 610 AND 4 Degree Program Courses

Course Overview:
Through discussions of article reviews, secondary research, and literature reviews, students in a College of Computer and Information Sciences’ (CC&IS’) masters degree program will become familiar with the foundational concepts of developing a problem statement for further investigation. While the need to work with the knowledge from a field of study is readily apparent for those who go into academia or take a research position, the need to use these very same abilities in the rest of the world are equally important. IT Research Methods presents students with the skills and knowledge to develop their capabilities to identify, categorize, evaluate, and synthesize a body of knowledge for a specific purpose. That purpose may be descriptive documentation, training materials, corporate white papers, position papers and other commentary, convention/meeting papers, books, or refereed journal papers.

This course will also establish a solid foundation for you in graduate level research, study and communication, by introducing you to graduate research techniques and approaches, and guidelines for using the American Psychological Association (APA) written communications style and formatting. You will also begin construction of an individual annotated bibliography to which you will continually add entries for your chosen thesis topic in your CC&IS’ masters degree program.

Course Outcomes:
Upon completion of this course, learners should be able to:
1. Critically evaluate literature
2. Organize a body of literature related to a problem.
3. Synthesize a story from the body of literature that leads to a research problem.
4. Develop and articulate a problem based on the literature.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of research ethics.
6. Communicate a critical analysis of a body of literature in both written and verbal formats.

Course Materials:

Required Texts:


Required Resources:
Research Tutorials and Guides from Regis University Library: All tutorials, see [http://libguides.regis.edu/tutorials](http://libguides.regis.edu/tutorials).
Computer and Information Science (CIS)
2. Library Resources for CC&IS’ graduate students. Copy and paste the following URL into your Web browser. At Regis MediaSpace, authenticate yourself by entering your RegisNET User ID and password. Click to sign into Regis MediaSpace, which will take you to the tutorial titled, Regis Library - Resources For Computer And Information Science: [https://mediaspace.regis.edu/media/Regis+Library+-+Resources+for+computer+and+information+science+/0_blk905nh/10579702](https://mediaspace.regis.edu/media/Regis+Library+-+Resources+for+computer+and+information+science+/0_blk905nh/10579702).

Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL). Retrieved from [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/).


*Design Science Readings. (Instructor will identify required readings.)*


**Pre-Assignment:**

**Online Format:** Sign on to WorldClass (D2L) (Home Page) and become familiar with the course navigation of the Web Curriculum. Read Locke et al, (2010) Part 1. Review Library
Tutorial: As described in Required Resources, above, watch (2) Library Resources for CC&IS’ graduate students.

Classroom-based Format: (Instructor may make additional assignments.)

- Review Library Tutorial: As described in Required Resources, above, watch (2) Library Resources for CC&IS’ graduate students.

Pre-Assignment Due Dates:

Classroom-based Format: This assignment is due the first night of class.

Online Format: The instructor will specify the due date for this assignment.

Course Assignments and Activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Week 1 – Defining, Reading, and Consuming Research** | 1. Introduction to Research  
2. Plagiarism  
3. Introduction to Literature Review  
2. Review Library Tutorial found in pre-assignment material  
3. Discussion on Plagiarism  
4. Article Review Activity | Activities 2.5%:  
- Plagiarism Discussion  
- Article Review Activity: As described in Required Resources, above, watch (2) Library Resources for CC&IS’ graduate students. |                     |
| **Week 2 – Identifying a Research Problem** | 1. Anatomy of Research Article  
2. Defining research worthy problems  
3. Annotated Bibliography  
2. APA Quiz  
3. Evaluating Research Articles Activity | Article Review  
Activities 2.5%  
- APA Quiz  
- Evaluating Research Articles | Article Review 10% |
| **Week 3 – Telling the Research Story** | 1. Research Philosophy  
2. Evaluating Research  
2. Discussion on research as explanations  
3. Activity - Critiquing research-worthy problems  
4. Idea Paper Peer Review | Activities 2.5%  
- Explanations discussion  
- Research problem definition  
- Peer Review |                     |
| Week 4 – Working with the Research Problem | 1. Rationale  
2. Context  
Read Locke et al., (2010) Part 2 | Idea Paper | Activities 2.5%  
• Idea Paper 15% |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Week 5 – Investigating Research Approaches | 1. Quantitative Research  
2. Qualitative Research | 1. Read Locke et al., (2010) Part 3 | Annotated Bibliography (AB – 1) | Activities 2.5%  
• AB – 1: 10% |
| Week 6 – Design Science | 1. Read Design Science Articles  
2. Article Review Jigsaw | Literature Review (LR - 1) | Activities 2.5%  
• LR – 1: 15% |
| Week 7 – Ethics and Presentation Strategies | 1. Research Ethics  
2. Presenting Research  
3. Logical Fallacies | 1. CITI responsible conduct of research (RCR)  
2. Logical Fallacies activity | Annotated Bibliography (AB - 2) | Activities 2.5%  
• CITI RCR  
• Logical Fallacies  
• AB – 2: 10% |
| Week 8 – Wrap Up | 1. Presentations of research topics | Literature Review (LR - 2)  
Literature Review Presentation | Activities 2.5%  
• LR – 2: 15%  
• Written 10%  
• Presentation 5% |

Course Policies and Procedures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>Activities assigned each week</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article Review</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idea Paper</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem Rationale Annotated Bibliography (AB - 1)</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem Rationale Literature Review (LR - 1)</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thematic Annotated Bibliography (AB - 2)</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thematic Literature Review (LR - 2)</td>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thematic Literature Review Presentation</td>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CC&IS Grading Scale

Student Evaluation Grid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 to 100</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A–</td>
<td>90 to less than 93</td>
<td>3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 to less than 90</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 to less than 87</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B–</td>
<td>80 to less than 83</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 to less than 80</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 to less than 77</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C–</td>
<td>70 to less than 73</td>
<td>1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 to less than 70</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63 to less than 67</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D–</td>
<td>60 to less than 63</td>
<td>.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Less than 60</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional information about grading can be found in the latest edition of the University Catalog, available at [http://www.regis.edu/Academics/Course%20Catalog.aspx](http://www.regis.edu/Academics/Course%20Catalog.aspx).

Participation

Because of the accelerated nature of the course, class participation is very important. Class participation/effort is important because we can all learn from each other. Your participation points can make a difference in the final grade. If the student doesn't participate during any given week, they will lose the participation points of that week.

Participation means:

1. a. Present in class every session (classroom);
   b. Present on the Discussion Forum every week (online).

2. a. Effectively responds to questions from the facilitator (classroom);
   b. Regularly checks forum and posts all required assignments/discussion questions/items by the deadlines (online).

3. Contributes to classroom/forum discussions, etc.

CC&IS Policies and Procedures

Each of the following CC&IS Policies & Procedures is incorporated here by reference. Students are expected to review this information each term, and agree to the policies and procedures as
identified here and specified in the latest edition of the University Catalog, available at [http://www.regis.edu/Academics/Course%20Catalog.aspx](http://www.regis.edu/Academics/Course%20Catalog.aspx) or at the link provided.

- The CC&IS Academic Integrity Policy.
- The Student Honor Code and Student Standards of Conduct.
- Incomplete Grade Policy, Pass / No Pass Grades, Grade Reports.
- The Information Privacy policy and FERPA. For more information regarding FERPA, visit the [U.S. Department of Education](http://www.ed.gov).

The CC&IS Policies & Procedures Syllabus Addendum summarizes additional important policies including, Diversity, Equal Access, Disability Services, and Attendance & Participation that apply to every course offered by the College of Computer & Information Sciences at Regis University. A copy of the CC&IS Policies & Procedures Syllabus Addendum can be found here: [https://in2.regis.edu/sites/ccis/policies/Repository/CCIS%20Syllabus%20Addendum.docx](https://in2.regis.edu/sites/ccis/policies/Repository/CCIS%20Syllabus%20Addendum.docx).