MIS 790 Directed Readings in Management Information Systems

Spring 2012
San Diego State University
College of Business Administration
Management Information Systems

Instructor: Dr. Robert K. Plice, Assoc. Professor & MIS Department Chair
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Time: Arranged
Venue: SSE-3366 (or arranged)   Office: SSE-3366
Office Hours: By appointment

Prerequisites: Advancement to candidacy.

Catalog Description: Preparation for the comprehensive examination for students.

Overview: The state sets the minimum requirements for the Master's Degree. This class is an assessment of the student's ability to integrate the knowledge of the area, show critical and independent thinking, and demonstrate mastery of the subject matter. Passing this course also passes you on the graduation writing requirement.

Grading: Performance is graded as credit/no credit.

Student Learning Outcomes: An important goal of this course is to prepare students to pursue lifelong learning in the information systems discipline. At the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Develop and manage an information systems project.
2. Synthesize relevant academic research on an information systems topic.
3. Present complex information systems knowledge to others in writing.
4. Present complex information systems knowledge to others through an oral presentation.
Course Grading / Deliverables

MIS 790 consists of a comprehensive report, article presentations, and a comprehensive exam. Each of these activities is designed to create a meaningful culminating experience for the student completing an MSIS degree. These three activities are described below.

Comprehensive Report

There are three separate options to choose from for your report. You will need to meet with your instructor to settle on one that best serves your educational goals. These three options are briefly discussed below but it is up to the student to develop the structure, timeline, and specific deliverables for the project. The scope of the project will need to be negotiated with the instructor:

1. Systems Development Project: This option could include managing a project at work or completing a project for a non-profit organization. This project should begin by preparing a problem statement, feasibility study, and recommendation. It would then lead to the development of a logical and physical design. Depending on the size of the project, it could include implementation.

2. Emerging Technology in Practice: This option would examine an emerging technology (for example, cloud computing, tools for web analytics, big data etc.) and its potential influence on business today. This report would likely include a technological overview (e.g., historical perspective, underlying theories, capabilities, etc…), a discussion of current applications (e.g., impact on industry structure, examples of use, cost/benefit analysis, security implications), and future applications.

3. Literature Review of Research Topic: This option would include an in-depth literature review on a research topic of interest to the student. This might be a topic that you would like to research further in a PhD program. This project would begin with a statement of the phenomenon of interest and why it is important to business today. You would need to meet with your instructor to determine the scope of the project and the types of sources that you would consult in your investigation.

There are five specific deliverables identified in the course schedule associated with this report. Although there is no minimum length requirement, the word count should not exceed 20,000 under any circumstances. The writing should be at a professional level and follow APA guidelines.
Article Presentations

Completion of the MSIS degree should not be the end of your education. Rather, it should be a point of departure where you become a lifelong learner who actively seeks new knowledge and disseminates it to others. Each student will complete two article presentations as part of the course. The first presentation will be from a recent article published in the *Harvard Business Review* (available to you for free online through the SDSU library).

Here is a set of example articles from *HBR* to give you an idea of the kinds of articles that would be appropriate. You should use an article that is NOT on this list—preferably one from a more-recent issue of *HBR*.


The second article can be selected from any well respected academic journal in the Information Systems (IS) discipline. The following are widely accepted as high quality academic journals in the IS discipline: *European Journal of Information Systems, Information Systems Journal, Information Systems Research, Journal of the AIS, Journal of MIS*, and *MIS Quarterly*.

Each of your presentations should be from fifteen to twenty minutes in length and will be followed by discussion and questions. Your presentation should be professional and include an objective presentation of the authors’ article as well as your own interpretation of the significance of the work. Please provide the instructor a copy of your PowerPoint slides (numbered slides, two slides per page, no frames, black and white, and stapled) on the day of the presentation.

Comprehensive Examination

There will be a take-home comprehensive exam given towards the end of the semester designed to test your ability to synthesize and apply the knowledge and experience you have gained from the MSBA program. You will have one week to complete the exam.
### Course Schedule with Deliverables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Deliverable / Activity</th>
<th>Location / Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/24</td>
<td>Introduction to Course</td>
<td>SSE-3366 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1/31</td>
<td>Obtain approval from instructor for article for first article presentation.</td>
<td>By appointment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 3    | 2/7   | **Article Presentation 1:** *HBR* Presentations  
**Report Deliverable 1:** 1-page project proposal (distribute to instructor and classmates) | SSE-3366 7pm                     |
| 4    | 2/14  | Optional Meeting                                                                       | By appointment                   |
| 5    | 2/21  | **Report Deliverable 2:** Project Outline including schedule of deliverables. (distribute to instructor and classmates) | SSE-3366 7pm                     |
| 6    | 2/28  | Optional Meeting                                                                       | By appointment                   |
| 7    | 3/7   | Optional Meeting                                                                       | By appointment                   |
| 8    | 3/14  | **Article Presentation 2:** *IS Journal* Presentations  
**Report Deliverable 3:** Status Report on Project (distribute to instructor and classmates) | SSE-3366 7pm                     |
| 9    | 3/21  | Optional Meeting                                                                       | By appointment                   |
| 10   | 3/28  | Optional Meeting                                                                       | By appointment                   |
| 11   | 4/11  | Optional Meeting                                                                       | By appointment                   |
| 13   | 4/18  | **Report Deliverable 4:** Project Presentations                                         | SSE-3366 7pm                     |
| 14   | 4/25  | Pick up Comprehensive Exam                                                             | From department office           |
| 15   | 5/2   | **Comprehensive Exam due at 12 noon**                                                  | Delivered and time stamped in department office |
|      | 5/16  | **Report Deliverable 5:** Written Project Reports are due.                             | Delivered and time stamped in department office |