Course Syllabus
MIS-8720-001 – Seminar in Information Systems II
Fall 2018
3 Credit Hours

(Last updated: 8/25/2018)

Instructor: Chen Zhang, Associate Professor
Time and Room: 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM Tuesday, FCB 266
Phone: 901-678-5671
E-mail: czhang12@memphis.edu
Office: FAB 301
Office Hours: 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM Monday
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM Thursday or by appointment

Course Overview:
This research seminar will introduce doctoral students to the fundamentals of econometrics research using secondary data in information systems. Students will learn common empirical models and estimation methods adopted in recent top IS journal publications. We will also discuss the commonly used data sources for various IS research domains and topics. For each empirical model and estimation method, students will also become familiar with its drawbacks and possible robustness checks. Students will also become familiar with key steps of conducting an econometrics research such as identifying research questions, conducting literature review, and developing research models. The goal is to provide doctoral students with practical guidance on how to conduct empirical research using secondary data.

Pre-Requisite:
Students must be enrolled in the PhD program in the Fogelman College of Business and Economics at the University of Memphis.

Required Texts (and Related Materials):
No required textbooks

Location of Course Materials:
All articles will be posted on the eCourseware website.

Course Objectives:
By successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the pros and cons of empirical research using secondary data
2. Generate research ideas with the potential to contribute to IS theory and practice
3. Identify relevant and feasible data sources for the research idea
4. Select appropriate empirical estimation method for hypothesis testing
5. Identify and tackle the challenges associated with the empirical method
6. Gain hands-on experience with secondary data analysis

Fogelman College: Learning Outcomes for Your Degree

This course is designed to help you to meet the overall learning objectives for the PhD degree offered by the Fogelman College. Graduates of the Fogelman PhD degree will:

- Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of their areas of specialization,
- Master the analytical/methodological skills needed to evaluate and conduct research in their areas of specialization,
- Demonstrate their ability to design and conduct original research in their chosen fields of specialization,
- Be able to teach college-level courses in their areas of specialization, and
- Be able to communicate the results of their research in a clear and effective manner.

Professor’s Expectations of Students:

Students are expected to read assigned articles in detail prior to each class, actively participate in discussions, and develop possible research ideas based on assigned articles and their knowledge in the topic area. Students are strongly encouraged to contact me to discuss any concerns about this course or seek any additional help with course materials if needed.

Student’s Expectations of the Professor:

Course materials will be well-organized and posted on elearn in advance. You will be engaged in an active and supportive learning environment. I will respond to your emails within 2 business days if not sooner. Feedback on all work submitted will be provided within 7-10 calendar days.

Course Methodology

This class will use a combination of student presentation of assigned articles, in-class discussions of articles and related empirical methodological issues, and research proposal development.
Grading and Evaluation Criteria:

Final Course Grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point Range</th>
<th>Assigned Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100 Points</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89 Points</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-79 Points</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-69 Points</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 60 Points</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Your overall grade for the semester is based on how well you perform on a mixture of formal activities including discussions, quizzes and projects. A detailed description of each of the assessed activities is posted in the online course space.

Summary of Graded Activities

Points earned on the assessed activities will be distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Presentation</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Proposal and Presentation</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 pts</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List of Formal Assessed Activities

For a complete description of the assessed activities for the semester, please refer to the “List of Assessed Activities” page that are located in the online course area under “Getting Started”.

Attendance and Participation
You are expected to attend all classes and participate in discussions in class. You are responsible for the material we cover in class if you miss a class.

Paper Presentation
In each class, students will present an assigned article published in a top IS journal. Students are expected to gain an in-depth understanding of the motivation, theoretical basis, research hypotheses, and methodology of the paper that they will present.

Assignments
Prior to each class, students will submit a summary and critique of the assigned articles for that week. In addition, on September 18 and October 9, students will submit a mini research proposal based on the reading materials.
Research Proposal
Each student will develop a research proposal for an econometrics study using secondary data. The proposal will be no longer than 25 double-spaced pages. It will include: title, abstract, research motivation, research question, theoretical background and literature review, research model and hypotheses, research design including data sources, data collection approach, and empirical method, expected contributions. Research proposal topic is due on October 23. Completed proposal and presentation is due on December 4.

Schedule of Activities
For a complete semester schedule of readings, activities, and due dates for assignments, please refer to the “Schedule of Semester Activities” that can be found in the online course area under “Course Introduction”.

Course Policies
E-MAIL:
All students are required to maintain and access their University of Memphis (@memphis.edu) email account. You will receive all official course correspondence at this email account. Any inability to receive incoming mail in a timely fashion (e.g., not regularly checking your email, having a “full mailbox” condition, etc.) is the student’s responsibility. If you prefer getting email from an alternate email address (gmail, yahoo, etc.) and do not check campus email, you should make sure all campus email is forwarded to that alternate email address. This can be done via the campus IAM website.

Attendance and Participation:
This is a standard classroom course. It is important that you consistently attend classes throughout the semester and stay active and engaged in the classroom. Your full engagement in the class begins on the first day of the semester and should be maintained until the end of the semester. For students receiving federal student loans, any lack of engagement in the course may be treated as non-attendance and potentially impact access to student loans in the future.

Students are expected participate in all interactive aspects of the course. You should also regularly communicate with the instructor as part of your overall learning experience, check the course website and email frequently for announcements, and actively participate in classrooms discussions (both formal and informal).

Note that class attendance and participation will contribute to your overall grade in the semester as noted under earlier in this syllabus.
Adding / Dropping:
If you have questions about adding or dropping classes, please refer to this page on the Registrar’s website.

Academic Integrity:

The University of Memphis has clear codes regarding cheating and classroom misconduct. If interested, you may refer to the Student Handbook section on academic misconduct for a discussion of these codes. Note that using a “Solutions Manual” is considered cheating. Should your professor have evidence that using a “Solutions Manual” has occurred, he/she may take steps as described on the campus’ Office of Student Conduct website. If you have any questions about academic integrity or plagiarism, you are strongly encouraged to review the Fogelman College's Website on Academic Integrity. Note that Turnitin will be used extensively on submitted work, especially research and associated writing. Strong evidence of plagiarism will result in a zero on the submitted assignment with a potential opportunity to resubmit in a corrected form for partial credit.

Classroom Behavior:

All participants in the course should be considerate of the other course participants and treat them (as well as their opinions) with respect. The class will operate under the assumption that any and all feedback offered is positive in nature and that the intentions of the person(s) providing feedback are strictly honorable. Insensitivity in this area will not be tolerated. If you have any questions about online communication, you should review the Fogelman College's Netiquette website.

Extra Credit:

There is no extra credit offered in this course. Your final grade will be computed based on your work on the formal/assessed activities previously described in this syllabus.

Reporting Illness or Absence:

Due dates and deadlines have been established for each graded assignment. In this course, deadlines are taken very seriously. Please do not wait until the last day to submit assignments or to take quizzes and exams. If an emergency should arise, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor prior to the deadline to discuss the matter. A deadline extension will be considered only if all of the following conditions are met: (1) Extreme emergency and (2) Instructor contacted prior to the due date.

Inclement Weather:

In the event that inclement weather requires the cancellation of classes at The University of Memphis, local radio and television media will be immediately notified. Additionally, The University of Memphis maintains an Inclement Weather Hotline at 678-0888.
Syllabus Changes:

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to this syllabus. If changes are necessitated during the term of the course, the instructor will immediately notify students of such changes both by individual email communication and posting both notification and nature of change(s) on the course bulletin board.

Student Services

Please access the FCBE Student Services page for information about:

- Students with Disabilities
- Tutoring and other Academic Assistance
- Advising Services for Fogelman Students
- Technical Assistance