

dently (with the instructor) developing their thesis proposal. This activity may include: pilot experiments or studies, instrument development, simulation development or testing and other activities concomitant with the students' topic analysis. Near the end of the semester each student will: 1) make a thirty to forty minute oral presentation of their proposal to members of the class and invited participants and defend their proposal in subsequent discussions, and 2) turn in a formal written thesis proposal.

Conduct of the course for the research group: The first half of the semester will be spent in examining research process in the context of the MIS field. The second half of the semester will be devoted to an examination of the research defining the current frontiers of knowledge in several topic areas within the MIS field. Extensive reading assignments are employed throughout this course.

One student will be assigned primary responsibility for each reading assignment. That student will: 1) prepare and present a 10 minute discussion of the material, 2) lead the subsequent class discussion, 3) prepare a short (less than 1/2 page double spaced) abstract of the assignment, and 4) prepare a one to three page summary of the material including its relation to other relevant material. (Items 3 and 4 are to be neatly prepared and a copy is to be distributed to each member of the class.) Each student will read all assignments before the class on which they are due. This group will cover a subset of the material covered in S601 and S602.

COURSE OBJECTIVE, THESIS PROPOSAL GROUP

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to independently complete a topic analysis and will understand the role of a research proposal. The student will have completed the development of a research proposal and understand the process of presenting, and defending a proposal. The student will be equipped to successfully present and defend a doctoral thesis proposal upon completing this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVE, RESEARCH GROUP

Upon completing this course the student will understand the research process and be familiar with the literature, tools and techniques associated with each phase of the process from library research through objective specification, topic analysis, hypothesis formulation, selection of research strategies and experimental design, data collection and analysis, to the preparation of publishable research reports. The student will also be able to identify the major contingencies which influence the process or phases within the overall process; (e.g. operating paradigms, scientific versus socio-technical methods, empirical versus theoretical, theory building versus testing, nomothetic versus idiographic, causal versus correlational, etc.) The student will understand many of the current frontiers of knowledge in most of the topic areas within the MIS field. The student will recognize the relationships between the research objectives and the research techniques employed in examining the topic area. The student will understand the current paradigms which guide the research activities in several topic areas.