copy is to be distributed to each member of the class at a designated location by 9:00 a.m. on the class day). Each student will read all assignments before the class on which it is due. There will be no quizzes or examinations.

Later pages of this syllabus illustrate the daily plan for this course. This schedule is intentionally incomplete. Depending on the interests and knowledge levels in the class, modifications to this schedule will be made. Additional readings and exercises may be included and the sequence of topics may be altered. Finally, the time, date and location for some class meetings may be changed to accommodate visitors. It is therefore important that you bring this syllabus to each class meeting to record any additions or changes.

Your first reading assignment presents a model of the research process in the context of the Management Information Systems Field. This model is a useful framework on which to "hang" the materials covered in this course. These materials will deal with (1) the research process and its elements, (2) the MIS Field System, and (3) the environment. Particular attention will be focused on defining the boundary between the MIS Field System and its environment. This model will be discussed during the second class meeting. This paper also presents a Comparative Analysis of Research Methodologies. This framework will be used to guide the discussion of many of the readings in the course. The framework will be discussed during the second class meeting, and will be evaluated and modified, as necessary, throughout the semester.

A term paper may be required in this course. That decision will be made by consensus of the class members by mid-term. If a term paper is required it will be focused on elements of the research process and the literature addressing these elements. The purpose of requiring a term paper is to facilitate the student's ability to focus on a particular aspect of the research process that is still not well understood.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completing this course the student will understand the research process and the literature, tools and techniques associated with each phase of the process form 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 and evaluate 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.). Finally, the student will be introduced to some of the frontiers of knowledge in MIS and will begin to develop the ability to critically evaluate articles in the learned journals of this field.

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