



# CS 399 Information Interaction Research Methods

Summer 2024

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:**TBA

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

---

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to research methods essential for gaining insights into people's interactions with information, information technology, and information systems. Delving into the foundations of epistemology, science, and theory, the course explores the ethical considerations inherent in research. Students will engage with a diverse array of research methods, including qualitative, quantitative, and design methodologies.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Gain a solid understanding of epistemology, scientific principles, and relevant theories that form the basis for investigating human interactions with information, information technology, and information systems.
2. Explore and comprehend the ethical considerations associated with research in information science.
3. Foster an awareness of research ethics and the importance of conducting studies with integrity, sensitivity, and respect for human subjects.
4. Develop critical thinking skills for evaluating research methods and their appropriateness in different contexts.
5. Enhance written and verbal communication skills to effectively convey research findings.

## PREREQUISITES

---

N/A



## GRADING

---

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
2 Homework	20 Points
2 Quizzes	20 Points
Midterm 1	15 Points
Midterm 2	15 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS

---

### Required Texts:

Leslie P. Willcocks, *Enacting Research Methods in Information Systems: Volume 3*, 1st Edition, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

### Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

## COURSE TOPICS

---

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<p><b>Topics:</b></p> <p>Topic 1: Information Technology as Disciplinary Technology</p> <p>Topic 2: What Does It Mean to Be ‘Critical’ in IS Research?</p> <p>Topic 3: Critical Perspectives on Information Systems</p> <p>Topic 4: Network Theory and Critical Information Systems Research</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b></p> <p>Quiz#1</p>



Module 2	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 5: Introduction to key terminology and concepts  Topic 6: Using Grounded Theory Method in Information System  Topic 7: Towards a Hermeneutic Method for Interpretive Research in Information Systems  Topic 8: Exploration of epistemology and its relevance to information science</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Quiz#2</p>
Module 3	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 9: Complexity and Information Systems: The Emergent Domain  Topic 10: Examination of different research paradigms and their implications  Topic 11: Differentiating between exploratory, descriptive, and explanatory research  Topic 12: Hands-on exercises in formulating research questions and hypotheses</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Midterm#1  Homework#1</p>
Module 4	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 13: The Design Construct in Information Systems Design Science  Topic 14: A Critical Analysis of Decision Support Systems Research Revisited  Topic 15: Design Theory for Dynamic Complexity in Information Infrastructure  Topic 16: The ethical treatment of human subjects</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Midterm#2  Homework#2</p>
Module 5	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 17: Qualitative research methods in information science  Topic 18: Interviews, focus groups, and content analysis  Topic 19: Quantitative research methods in information science  Topic 20: Surveys, experiments, and statistical analysis</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Final Exam</p>

## ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.



If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

### **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

### **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed.



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

---

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.