

Spring 2008
INF714 Research Seminar in Information Science IV (1 credit)

Monday 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Draper 313

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Course Purpose and Overview

This is the fourth of four research seminars offered in sequence during the first two years of the Ph.D. program in information science. Taken together, these four seminars are designed to create a continuing dialogue between students and faculty in the program around major themes of research on campus at the University at Albany. The seminars are not designed to teach research methods, core concepts and theories, nor the advanced materials from the current approved specializations in the program. These are taught in the research methods course (INF 710), the core classes (INF 720 through 724), and in the specialization and elective courses respectively.

This semester the INF Research Seminar will be strongly organized around the third annual information science research conference to be held near the end of the semester (May 2, 2008). INF714 students will help with the conference, and potentially present their own work. Additionally, INF714 students will arrange for, introduce, and provide introductory materials for research speakers (usually upper level PhD students who are working on dissertations).

Course Objectives

There is a lot to get done in this one semester—this course is designed to help you to meet critical second year expectations and to give you continued research momentum for your career here at Albany. At the end of this semester, students taking this seminar will have:

1. Participated in the research conference.
2. Participated in the review process necessary to run a research enterprise.
3. Presented at NTIR3 or another research conference.
4. Made measureable progress on your publishable paper requirement.
5. Made measureable progress on your literature review.
6. Filled in a first draft of your degree candidacy form.
7. Participated in finding and organizing class speakers for the semester.
8. In time for the spring faculty review meeting—reviewed with your advisor and amended, if necessary, your signed Program Plan to be in Jennifer Goodall’s hands by April 25.

Course Organization and Logistics

On about half of the days that this class meets, we will meet as a class to do our own business. On these days, the class will start at 11:30 and continue until our business is completed. On those days scheduled for an external presenter, we will have a schedule more similar to that of INF711-713—class will usually be organized into three distinct “chunks”:

Chunk #1: Course logistics and announcements--11:30-Noon. The first twenty five minutes will be taken up with a whole class discussion of the various issues and concerns arising in the class. This will be our time as a class to meet as a whole, keep track of one another, and deal with issues around the various class assignments that are coming due. This is the time when assignments will be passed in and returned and various logistical details resolved. Students are encouraged to bring your lunch to this portion of the class.

Chunk #2: Formal Presentation--Noon to 1 PM. About half of the classes will involve guest presentations by members of the INF research community in a modified brown bag format. These presentations will start at noon and will end promptly at 1:00 PM.

Chunk #3: Informal Discussion with Presenters and Course Instructors—1 to 1:30 PM. Research presenters will normally join us for a continuing discussion after their presentations. This will be a good time for you to meet senior Ph.D. students with whom you wish to meet or to catch up with me on any questions that you may have about the class. We have also scheduled an office hour at 1:30 on Monday.

Course Listserv: There is a single listserv for INF711 through INF714. All class members should sign up for this at listserv@listserv.albany.edu. The name of the listserv is INF711-14@listserv.albany.edu.

The NTIR3 INF Spring Research Conference

Members of this class will help organize and participate in the Third Annual NTIR Spring Research Conference. In particular, INF714 students will participate in evaluation of conference presentation proposals, be available as consultants to the INF712, and participate as need the day of the event before, during, and after the conference. By organizing the conference, as a class we will gain an inside glimpse of how conferences work. Typically all of the faculty and students associated with the INF program will show up for this full day affair scheduled near the end of the semester.

Conference Website: Each year the first year class creates and/or updates the website for the NTIR conference. This website is located at <http://www.albany.edu/cci/ntir/>

Course Deliverables: The Fourth Semester Research Portfolio

The deliverable products for this class are organized around a number of concrete activities designed to create forward momentum for your Ph.D. research program. All of this work is to be integrated into a Fourth Semester Research Portfolio.

The Fourth Semester Research Portfolio is divided into several parts:

Part I: Draft of Peer-reviewed Publishable Paper

[See the end-of semester cover sheet for options.]

From INF PhD Manual: Normally, each primary specialization requires one paper of publishable quality. To meet the publication requirement students must get the approval of their Program Guidance Committee for

- A paper published (single or joint authorship) in a peer-reviewed journal, or
- A paper accepted for presentation and publication in a peer-reviewed conference (a paper, not an abstract), or
- A research paper submitted to the specialization committee chair for review by a designated committee of faculty within the specialization. This is not the preferred method of meeting this requirement....

Part II: Draft of Literature Review

[See the end-of-semester cover sheet for options.]

From INF PhD Manual: Evaluation is done by two INF PhD faculty members selected by the student, and approved by the student's Program Guidance Committee Chair. The Program Guidance Committee Chair cannot evaluate the literature review.

Part III: Individual Participation in NTIR3 Research Conference Organization

INF714 students will participate in the research conference in terms of attracting speakers, evaluating proposals, helping with conference logistics, and participating in an organizational capacity the day of the conference. You will hand in as part of your portfolio a statement on individual conference organization and participation, and a peer evaluation form.

Part IV: Presentation at a Research Conference

[See the end-of-semester cover sheet for options.]

Part V: Brown Bag Speakers and Speaker Materials

The second year cohort is expected to find, invite, collect and distribute class materials for, and host four INF PhD students who are at the proposal or near-proposal stage. These individuals will give presentations from 12 noon until 12:30 with 12:30 until 1 p.m. for discussion. The week before each speaker, INF714 students will distribute to the whole class (1) speaker name and topic, (2) speaker résumé, and (3) the citation for at least one article that the speaker wants the class to read. INF714 students need to work as a group to make this happen. In addition, INF714 students will send out an announcement to faculty and student listservs a week before the scheduled speaker, inviting all to attend this event. See the attached schedule of activities for speaker dates.

Part VI: Admission to Candidacy Form

Submit an “Admission to Candidacy” form filled in with actual dates, and with proposed dates in []. You must submit one of these forms before you can be a degree candidate in the program and propose your dissertation work. Forms are found as pdf files on the College of Computing and Information website under “Informatics—Graduate Programs—Resources for Students—Forms.” You do not need to have signatures on this form at this time but be aware of any requirements that you have not fulfilled.

From the INF PhD Manual (pp. 11 ff.): formal admission to degree candidacy occurs after successful completion of all prerequisites and core courses with at least a B average, primary and secondary specialization requirements, literature review requirement, comprehensive examination, and residency requirement. Admission to degree candidacy occurs only with the approval of the Dean of Graduate Studies acting on the recommendations of Graduate Academic Council, the Program Director, and the Program faculty.

Other Course Policies and Procedures

Course Grading. The entire Second Semester Research Portfolio is due on the last day of class, May 5. We will evaluate the entire portfolio to arrive at a course grade at the end of the semester. We use the following weights:

Documented Progress on Publishable Paper	25%
Documented Progress on Literature Review	25%
Individual Participation in NTIR3 Research Conference Organization	15%
Presentation at a Research Conference	20%
Brown Bag Speakers and Speaker Materials	10%
Degree Candidacy Form	5%

Plagiarism and Cheating. We encourage you to work collaboratively with your fellow students on most of the work in this course. Learn by interaction. However, some assignments—most notably your final research portfolio—should reflect individual effort. We plan to run the course on an “honor system” and hence would consider any case of plagiarism to be a most severe infringement on the basic rules of the class. An incident of plagiarism can result in a failing grade for the course with the possibility of further action being pursued at the university level.

Alternative Learning Styles. The University is particularly suited to the academically qualified student who has a physical or learning disability. If you have such a disability or you require an alternative mode of instruction to facilitate learning, please contact either of the instructors during the first two weeks of the semester.

Late Assignments and Incomplete Work. As a course rule, late assignments will not be accepted. No incomplete will be given for work done or left undone in conjunction with this course. Any exceptions to these two rules will require written consent from the instructor of record.

Initial Schedule for Class Activities
INF 714 Research Seminar in Information Science I (1 credit)

Date	Class Activities	Materials Due
January 28	Introductions/ Class Overview/ Class Framework/ Set Up Class Teams	None
February 4	How to Plan Research that Leads to Publication (presentation by David Andersen)	Andersens: announce speaker for next week and hand out to class topic, résumé and reading
February 11	SPEAKER #1: Devendra Potnis	Status report #1 on publishable paper
February 18	Conference Planning Work	Group: announce speaker for next week and hand out to class topic, résumé and reading
February 25	SPEAKER #2:	Status report #2 on literature review Group: announce speaker for next week and hand out to class topic, résumé and reading
March 3	SPEAKER #3:	
March 10	Conference Planning Work	Group: announce speaker for next week and hand out to class topic, résumé and reading
March 17	SPEAKER #4:	Status report #3 on publishable paper
March 24	Spring Break	
March 31	Conference Work	Group: announce speaker for next week and hand out to class topic, résumé and reading
April 7	SPEAKER #5:	Status report #4 on literature review
April 14	Conference Work	
April 21	No class—three-day weekend	
April 28	Final Conference Preparation	
May 2	Third Annual Research Conference	FRIDAY
May 2; 6 p.m.	<i>End of Semester Pot Luck following NTIR3 (optional)</i>	<i>FRIDAY evening; place to be announced</i>
May 5	Final Class/Class Wrap Up/Lessons from the Conference	Entire Fourth Semester Research Portfolio Due