A Plausible (but wrong) view of Information Science Research at Albany*

My Dissertation

Me ———————————— My Ideas
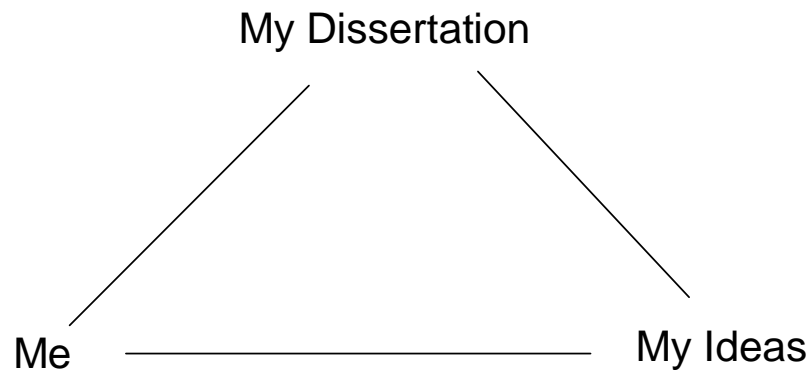
* (Tear off this page, crumple it up, throw it away, and turn to the attached syllabus for INF 711)

INF 711 Research Seminar in Information Science I (1 credit)
Monday 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM
CETL West Seminar Room

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Office Hours: Monday 1:30 to 2:30 CETL	
Thursdays 2:00 to 3:00 PM Milne Hall	

Course Purpose and Overview

This class is the first 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 intent of this course is to involve faculty from around the campus in this dialogue, creating a forum that students can use to link to faculty, concentrations, and research programs around campus. The seminars are not designed to teach research methods, core concepts and theories, nor the advanced materials from the eight 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.

As the first in this sequence of formalized lunch brown bag seminars, this course introduces the nature of interdisciplinary research as practiced at the University at Albany's information science program. We believe that such interdisciplinary work requires that students orient themselves toward one or more global communities of scholarship as manifest in professional associations, research conferences, and journals. Here on campus, these global communities of scholarship are echoed in the several communities of students and faculty who make up our specialization fields.

Informally dubbed "Research Boot Camp" by its designers, this course is designed to give new Ph.D. student an overview of the eight organized communities of scholarship on campus and how they relate to national and international research being presented at conferences, published in journals, and organized by professional associations. The course provides a high level initial view of the methods and substance of research in information science being carried out here at Albany and requires students to begin the construction of their personal research bibliography.

Course Objectives

At the end of this semester, students taking this seminar will:

1. Understand the broad content, organization, and research methods of the eight specializations in information science at the University at Albany
2. Have made an initial (still subject to change) selection of their primary and secondary specialization.
3. Understand the various relationships between our specializations and national and international communities of scholarship.
4. Have identified professional associations, research conferences, and journals that will anchor your study here at Albany.
5. Have met most of the faculty who are most active in the specializations
6. Have held discussions with faculty in your field to learn more about their research program and how it relates to your own research interests.
7. Have made an initial selection of a program guidance committee to work with you in planning your research program (also subject to change at a later date).
8. Created an initial bibliography for your future research in information science and in your selected specialization fields
9. Created a draft research plan for your first year of full-time equivalent study in the program.

This is a lot to get done in one semester, especially during the first semester of your work here at Albany. Certainly this is not a reasonable expectation for a one credit course. But it is intended as a reasonable expectation for your first semester broadly defined. That is, this course is designed to help you to meet these critical first semester expectations and to give you early research momentum for your career here at Albany.

Course Organization and Logistics

This course is sandwiched into a very full day of classes for first year Ph.D. students, preceded by a core class (INF 720) and followed immediately by the INF 523 core technology classes. The timing of these classes is designed to give an intensive introductory experience in a one-day format that balances the needs of part time students who may have obligations to full-time work and need to travel long distances to classes on campus with the needs of full time students who need to complete full schedules of classes in the late afternoon and evening hours. We also seek to gain maximum participation from program faculty by organizing this class around a lunch brown-bag format. Hence each 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 Faculty Presentation--Noon to 1 PM. Most of the classes will involve guest presentations by INF faculty in a modified brown bag format. These

presentations will start at noon and will end promptly at 1:00 PM. Some students will have to travel to the downtown campus immediately after class for their INF 523 class. I will ask the INF 523 instructors to delay the start of the formal INF lecture for enough time to make this travel possible.

Chunk #3: Informal Discussion with Faculty Presenters and Course Instructor—1 to 1:30 PM. Faculty presenters will normally join me for a continuing discussion after their presentations. This will be a good time for you to meet faculty with whom you wish to meet or to catch up with me on any questions that you may have about the class. I have also scheduled an office hour at 1:30 on Monday in addition to office hours in my office.

Course Deliverables: The First Semester Research Portfolio

The deliverable products for this class are organized around a number of concrete activities designed to connect you with faculty in your chosen areas of specialization and to create forward momentum for your Ph.D. research program. All of this work is to be integrated into a First Semester Research Portfolio.

The First Semester Research Portfolio is divided into three parts:

Part I: Informal Reflections (products due starting second week of class and continuously through the semester)
A. Initial statement of research intent
  * Your research goals
  * Congruence between your goals and those of primary and secondary specialization faculty on campus at UAlbany
B. Analysis of research methods used by two or more selected faculty in specialization areas of interest to you
C. Notes from interviews with two or more faculty in specialization areas of interest to you.
D. Journal-like reflections on the eight specialization presentations (with emphasis on how you see these field relating to your research interest)
E. Composition of your peer research support network.

Part II: First Semester Bibliography
A. An organized framework (such as EndNote) for organizing your research bibliography
B. Literature from INF 720
C. Literature from 8 faculty reviews of specialization fields
D. Literature from your review of selected faculty in your field(s)
E. Literature from other coursework

Part III: Formal Statements of Research Orientation (to be completed near end of the semester and made part of your student record for first year evaluation of progress)
A. Composition of initial Program Guidance Committee

B. Statement on key professional associations, conferences, and journals
C. First year field research plan
D. Writing sample—Draft proposal (1-2 pages) to submit a paper to a research conference in your specialization field (can be joint authorship, best if linked to your research plan). Many students will choose to focus on the Information Science Spring Research Conference Poster Sessions for this requirement.
E. Writing sample—Literature review from a class project or proposal of your choosing (do not do a separate piece of work for INF 711)

Other Course Policies and Procedures

Course Grading The entire First Semester Research Portfolio is due on the last day of class, December 18. I will evaluate the entire portfolio to arrive at a course grade using the grading rubric described below. More importantly, interim products of the portfolio will be due at times tentatively specified in the details course syllabus below (subject to revision as appropriate) and I will review these materials making guiding and supportive comments during the course of the semester. Portions of your First Semester Research Portfolio will be forwarded to the faculty in your identified primary and secondary specialization fields to introduce you and your work to them. Components of your First Year Research Portfolio contained in Part III (e.g., selection of your program guidance committee and your statement on professional associations and journals) will be made part of your permanent student record to become part of the first year evaluation of your progress in the program.

Plagiarism and Cheating. I 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. I 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 David Andersen 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.

Tentative Schedule of Class Activities
INF 711 Research Seminar in Information Science I (1 credit)

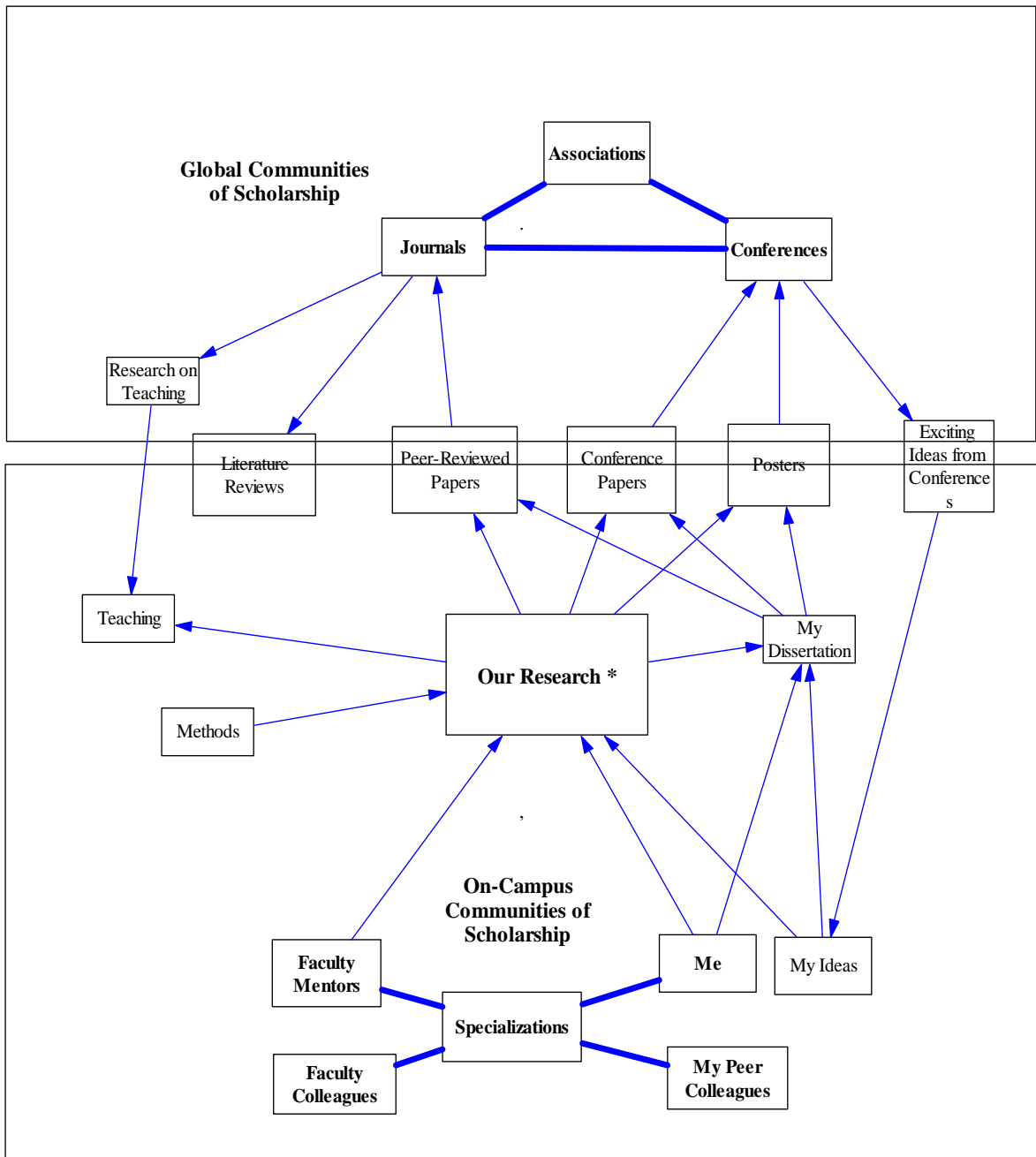| Date	Class Activities	Materials Due	Comments
September 11	Introductions/ Class Overview/ Class Framework/ Review of Graduate Bulletin for and Specializations in INF Ph.D. program/ First year qualifier and Program of Study form	None	
September 18	Research Methods Overview/ Qualitative and Quantitative Examples/ Products of Research	Initial statement of research interest	Deborah Andersen (Instructor for INF 710) invited lecturer. David Andersen will not attend this class
September 25	Program Sponsored Lunch/ Meet the Faculty in the Specializations		All faculty involved with specializations have been invited to this special class
October 2	Yom Kippur—NO CLASS		
October 9	Information Sources for Information Science/ Literature Reviews/ Bibliographic Essays	List of faculty you want to get to know during this semester	Deborah Bernard, bibliographer for Computing and Information has been invited for this lecture.
October 16	Field Presentation #1	First portion Analysis of Research Methods by Selected Faculty	
October 23	Field Presentation #2/	Complete Analysis of Research Methods by Selected Faculty/ On-going work on bibliography/ Journal Reflections on Field 1/	
October 30	Field Presentation #3/	Notes from First Faculty Interview/ On-going work on bibliography/ Journal Reflections on	

		Field 2	
November 6	Field Presentation #4/	On-going work on bibliography/ Journal Reflections on Field 3	
November 13	Field Presentation #5/	On-going work on bibliography/ Journal Reflections on Field 4	
November 22	Field Presentation #6/	Notes from Second Faculty Interview/ On-going work on bibliography/ Journal Reflections on Field 5	
November 29	Field Presentation #7/	On-going work on bibliography/ Journal Reflections on Field 6	
December 4	Field Presentation #8/	On-going work on bibliography/ Journal Reflections on Field 7	
December 11	Holiday Luncheon with Specialization Faculty/ Class Wrap Up	**Entire First Semester Research Portfolio Due**	

Course Grading Rubric for:
INF 711 Research Seminar in Information Science I

Component of First Semester Research Portfolio	Below Expected Performance (Grade =D or C)	Expected Performance (Grade =B)	Superior Performance (Grade =A)
Part I: Informal Reflections (products due starting second week of class and continuously through the semester)			
I-A. Initial statement of research intent • Your research goals • Congruence between your goals and those of primary and secondary specialization faculty on campus at UAlbany	Not submitted or submitted late	Submitted in a timely fashion.	Submitted in a timely fashion
I-B Analysis of research methods used by two or more selected faculty in specialization areas of interest to you	Not submitted or one or fewer faculty with one or fewer pieces of research examines	Submitted analysis of two pieces of research for two faculty members.	Submitted more than expected pieces of analysis for more than expected number of faculty.
I-C Notes from interviews with two or more faculty in specialization areas of interest to you.	Notes from one or zero interviews submitted	Notes from two interviews submitted.	Notes from more than two interviews submitted
I-D Journal-like reflections on the eight specialization presentations (with emphasis on how you see these field relating to your research interest)	Journal reflections not completed	Journal reflections completed on all specialization fields.	Journal reflections completed on all specialization fields.
I-E Composition of your peer research support network.	Peer research network not submitted	Composition of peer research network submitted.	Composition of peer research

			network submitted.
Part II: First Semester Bibliography			
An organized framework (such as EndNote) for organizing your research bibliography	Not completed	Framework completed	Framework completed
Literature from INF 720	Less than expected number of citations	10 citations entered in bibliography	More than expected number of citations
Literature from 8 faculty reviews of specialization fields	Less than expected number of citations	2 citations per specialization submitted in bibliography	More than expected number of citations
Literature from your review of selected faculty in your field(s)	Less than expected number of citations	2 citations for 2 faculty members	More than expected number of citations
Literature from other coursework	Less than expected number of citations	5 citations per each additional course taken	More than expected number of citations
Part III: Formal Statements of Research Orientation			
Composition of initial Program Guidance Committee	No plan in place for forming program guidance committee	Member from primary and secondary specialization identified to be on program guidance committee	Program Guidance committee fully formed/ Members of committee provide "sign off"
Statement on key professional associations, conferences, and journals	No plan in place to join professional associations and no journals and conferences targeted as research outlets	Submit plan to join appropriate professional associations, target conferences, and gain access to professional journals	Submit evidence of membership in targeted professional associations.
First year field research plan	No plan submitted	Submit short (one page) plan for research activities in first full year of study including who will be faculty supervisor	Faculty supervisor submits endorsement of your research plan.
Writing sample—Draft proposal to submit a paper to a research conference in your specialization	No writing sample submitted	Short (one page) description of a proposed final research	Faculty supervisor submits

field (can be joint authorship, best if linked to your research plan)		project targeted to an actual conference or granting agency submitted. Typically this would be collaborative work with a senior Ph.D. student of faculty member and could be connected to your first year research plan	endorsement of your plan and/or you actually submit the proposal.
Writing sample—Literature review from a class project or proposal of your choosing (do not do a separate piece of work for INF 711)	No writing sample submitted.	Writing sample developed for another course or project submitted (do not do original work exclusively for INF 711)	Writing sample developed for another course or project submitted (do not do original work exclusively for INF 711)

Inside the diagram, the following labels appear:

Global Communities of Scholarship

Associations

Journals　　　　　Conferences

Research on Teaching

Literature Reviews　　Peer-Reviewed Papers　　Conference Papers　　Posters　　Exciting Ideas from Conferences

Teaching

Our Research *

My Dissertation

Methods

On-Campus Communities of Scholarship

Faculty Mentors　　　　**Me**　　My Ideas

Specializations

Faculty Colleagues　　　　**My Peer Colleagues**

* "Our Research" includes proposals, grants, client-centered projects, technology-based projects, human subject interactions, and more

Figure 1: Organizing Framework for INF 711—Research Seminar in Information Science I

Appendix
Further Description of Various Components of the First Semester Research Portfolio

Under Construction: This section will provide a more complete description of each component of the portfolio so that students can more accurately gauge what is required and will be able to plan their time and effort allocation through the semester.