MSIS 595 Syllabus .Objective

The purpose of this course is to give you an opportunity to apply all that you have learned in previous courses in the Master of Science in Information Security program. Ideally, you will apply the skills and concepts you have learned to a real-world project related to your job, organization, home, or hobby. That way, you will derive greater benefit from the experience, as you will better appreciate the importance of the knowledge you have acquired.

Prerequisite

To enroll in this course, you must have already completed three courses in the major. It is preferred that this course be one of the last courses you take before completing the major. After all, the goal is for you to apply the lessons you have learned from your previous classes.

Responsibilities

To complete this course, you must fulfill the following tasks:

•Submit a project proposal by 11:59pm Friday, January 21. The proposal must be two to three pages in length. It should provide a title and a detailed description of the problem you are going to solve or the topic you are going to research. The proposal must give a very clear picture of what you intend to do this semester. It must include a minimum of 5 references, cited using APA style.

•Comment on one other person's project proposal by 11:59pm Friday, January 28. Your comment must include at least three suggestions to help that student improve his or her project. Your suggestions could include references for that student to research. Your suggestions must be different from those made by other students.

•Update your project proposal with a progress report and bibliography update. The new progress report must consist of at least five paragraphs. The first paragraph should provide a summary introduction in which you identify what your goal was for the preceding two weeks and you list at least three tasks you performed or topics you researched. Each of the next middle paragraphs should provide details on those tasks or topics you identified in the first paragraph. The final paragraph must identify your plan for the next two weeks. Cite a total at least 10 new references in this progress report, bringing your total number of references cited to at least 15. Your updated project proposal, now augmented with your first progress report and updated bibliography, constitute your Project Portfolio, which you will be updating continuously through this course as you prepare to write your first draft. Submit your Project Portfolio through Blackboard by Friday, February 4, at 11:59pm.

•Comment on one other person's Project Portfolio by 11:59pm Friday, February 11. Your comment must include at least two suggestions for that student to consider as he or she continues to develop the project. Your suggestions must be different from those made by other students.

•Update your Project Portfolio with another progress report and bibliography update. As before, your progress report must consist of at least 5 paragraphs. The first paragraph provides an introductory summary of the previous two weeks of work, identifying at least three tasks your performed or tasks you researched. The next paragraphs provide details on each of the items identified in the introduction. The final paragraph charts a course for the next two weeks. You must add at least 5 new cited references in this progress report, bringing your total number of cited references to at least 20. Submit your updated Project Portfolio, which now consists of your initial proposal, first progress report, second progress report, and references, on Blackboard by Friday, February 18, at 11:59pm.

•Comment on one other person's Project Portfolio by 11:59pm Friday, February 25. Your comment must include at least one suggestion for that student to consider as he or she continues to develop the project. Your suggestion must be different from those made by other students.

•Update your Project Portfolio with another progress report. At this point, you do not need to add more references if you feel that you have adequately substantiated all the claims you intend to make or conclusions you intend to draw in your project. Simply identify at least three more topics you have researched or tasks you have performed, and document them using the 5-paragraph-minimum format you have used previously. Submit your updated Project Portfolio to Blackboard by Friday, March 4, at 11:59pm.

•Comment on one other person's Project Portfolio by 11:59pm Friday, March 11. Your comment must include at least one suggestion for that student to consider as he or she continues to develop the project. Your suggestions must be different from those made by other students.

•Update your Project Portfolio with a final progress report. This will be the last update you make to the Project Portfolio. At this point, you do not need to add more references if you feel that you have adequately substantiated all the claims you intend to make or conclusions you intend to draw in your project. Simply identify at least three more topics you have researched or tasks you have performed, and document them using the 5-paragraph-minimum format you have used previously. Submit your updated Project Portfolio to Blackboard by Friday, March 18, at 11:59pm. The work contained in the Project Portfolio should now make it easier to write the first draft of your paper.

•Submit the first draft of your paper by Friday, April 1, at 11:59pm. The draft should be in 10-point or 12-point font and be single-spaced. It should seldom use personal pronouns, if at all. It must have at least 20 reference citations, expressed in APA format. Tables must be labeled with a caption centered above the table, like so:

Table 1. Number of attacks by month

Figures must be labeled with a caption centered below the figure, like so:

Figure 1. Cost of software bugs by phase

Both tables and figures must be referred to in the body text that precedes it.

Your first draft must consist of the following:

◦An abstract of up to 300 words that summarizes the purpose and findings of your project.

◦A Table of Contents, which identifies where each of the chapters begins.

◦An introduction chapter in which you state very clearly your reasons for doing this project and what you are going to do.

◦One or two chapter that review the literature. In these chapters, you describe work that has been done before in this particular area. Most of your reference citations will likely be included in these sections. Cite your references using APA format.

◦One or more chapters that represent your contributions to the areas explored by this project. Each chapter should focus on a theme that is important to your project's overall goals. If your project aims to solve a particular problem or implement a particular system, you must describe your methodology, trials, and findings. If your project aims to research a particular topic or topics to a much greater depth than what you explored in your coursework, use these chapters to develop rigorous new insights from the literature you have reviewed. These new insights must follow logically from the works you have researched.

◦A final chapter that summarizes the findings you presented in the previous chapter and outlines an avenue for future development of this work.

◦Your list of references, expressed in APA format, presented in the order in which they were cited in the preceding chapters.

•Submit the final paper, formatted exactly as the first draft, by Monday, April 25, at 11:59pm. Make sure you respond to the criticisms and suggestions I gave you in my review of your first draft.

•Present your paper in a 20 to 30-minute speech to students and instructors. Your presentation must be accompanied by visual content such as a Powerpoint slide. You may not read from your slides, and your slides must not be wordy, presenting keywords and short bullet points instead. The presentation must be done online or in person by Friday, May 6, at 5:00pm.

Organization of the Paper

As just stated, your paper must have the following structure:

•Abstract, in which you provide a 300-word-or less summary of the area you are exploring with this project and your findings.

•Introduction, in which you describe the problem and identify very clearly how your efforts seek to solve it.

•One or more chapters of literature review, which provides information essential for your reader to understand the problem and your solution. Liberally cite other experts' work in these chapters.

•One or more chapters of approach and findings, which detail the approach you took to solve the problem, implement the solution, or explore a research area, along with the rigorously substantiated results of your effort.

•A concluding summary chapter, which summarizes your findings and outlines possible future directions.

•Appendices, if any, which provide items such as source code or configuration instructions that you believe should be separate from the main sections of the paper.

•References, which lists the documents you cited in the order in which you cited them.

Each of these components must be present in your paper for it to qualify as a scholarly work.

Furthermore, and very importantly, avoid the use of personal pronouns as much as possible. There is no "I" in research!

References

You must identify your references using the APA style. A helpful tool for generating bibliographical references is here. List only the references you cite in the paper; do not list references you do not cite in the body of the paper. Liberally cite. There is no such thing as excessive citation. Opinion, statistics, and claims that are not yours or that are not general knowledge in the strictest sense all must be cited.

Grading

Grades will be assigned as follows:

Item

 Due by

 Points

Initial Proposal

1/21/2011, 11:59pm

10

1st Comment

1/28/2011, 11:59pm

3

1st Portfolio

2/4/2011, 11:59pm

10

2nd Comment

2/11/2011, 11:59pm

3

2nd Portfolio

2/18/2011, 11:59pm

10

3rd Comment

2/25/2011, 11:59pm

2

3rd Portfolio

3/4/2011, 11:59pm

10

4th Comment

3/11/2011, 11:59pm

2

4th Portfolio

3/18/2011, 11:59pm

10

First Draft

4/1/2011, 11:59pm

15

Final Paper

4/25/2011, 11:59pm

30

Final Presentation

5/6/2011, 5pm

15

Total

120

The final paper will be graded out of a total of 30 points. Points will be assigned as follows:

Grammar, spelling, and punctuation:

Your paper is free of grammar and punctuation errors, and all words are spelled correctly. Your writing is clear and concise.

5

Organization

Your paper begins with a clear explanation of the problem you are trying to solve. It then summarizes the approach you took to solve the problem. It reviews what the literature says about your topic area. It then provides a detailed account of your work, including processes and findings. It ends with a conclusion that summarizes your findings. In other words, your paper contains, in some form, the sections listed above.

5

References

Your paper sufficiently surveys the existing literature regarding your topic. Citations are consistently formatted and properly referenced in the body of the paper.

5

Content

Your paper is technically and conceptually sound. You have made appropriate use of the skills and concepts you learned in your classes. Your paper describes a project that focuses on information security and isn't padded with extraneous material that has little to do with the topic. You avoid making

generalizations and carefully support every claim you make, whether by citing other experts or reporting the results of your experiments.

15

The first draft will be graded according to the same rubric, except that each area will be worth half as many points.

Because this is a master's project, you will not be allowed to present the paper until it is at least "B" quality work. In other words, you will not be given permission to present your final work until the grade on your paper is at least 24 out of 30. The goal of this effort is to produce a work that would be suitable for publication, since it must serve as proof of your accomplishment in this program.

The final presentation will be graded out of a total of 15 points. Points will be assigned as follows:

Content

Your presentation adequately surveys the background, process, and findings of your project.

8

Slides

Your slides are clear and eye-catching. You avoided clutter in designing your slides so that the viewer's eyes are drawn to the main points.

3.5

Presentation Style

You speak clearly and at a reasonable pace. You made eye contact and did not simply read your notes. You were able to answer questions from the audience.

3.5

Proprietary Work

If you are performing your work on the part of your company, you must have the instructor sign a nondisclosure agreement. Doing so will also alert the instructor to refrain from including your work in its entirety in the program's archive. All non-proprietary work will be featured in the program's document archive to demonstrate the quality of the student's work.

Late Homework and Deferment of Credit

The initial project proposal, comments on others' work, and Project Portfolio updates, and rough draft must be completed on time or zero credit will be given for that work. The final draft and presentation may be deferred, if you and I agree that you do not have a reasonable chance to finish the work this semester. In that case, credit will be deferred until the final draft and presentation are completed. The option to defer credit, however, should be treated as a last resort.

Cheating

If you plagiarize a published work or the work of a fellow student, you will receive an F in the course. Information security professionals are expected to act ethically. Stealing the work of others is contrary to this spirit and will therefore be appropriately condemned.

Closing

Treat this course as an opportunity to exercise all the skills and concepts you have learned during your time in the Master of Science in Information Security program. If done well, this will prove to be the most valuable course you take in the major.

..