

0780 Management Information System (Project Seminar), 2009s

This MIS project seminar is special in different aspects compared to the „classical literature based seminars“, hence a brief outline:

- This course is the concluding course in a series of lectures. As such it is expected that students have become capable of solving any M/IS related challenge of this project seminar.
- The students may pick from a relatively rich set of themes, which get formulated after screening the students who have signed up for the class electronically, but well before the first meeting takes place. This way every student will be able to choose a theme/challenge which can be mastered due to the acquired knowledge in the preceding courses of their field of studies.
- The challenge/difficulty is adjusted to match the type of the project seminar (Seminar Paper, Bachelor Thesis).
- The students must research on their own, starting out with the Internet to get up to speed, if working on an information system dependent challenge (e.g. „Pitonyak Nutshells“).
- The students must research on their own, starting out with a supplied initial list of literature, if working on a literature dependent challenge (e.g. „Software Patents“).
- In the first week the students carry out an intensive, initial research, devising a project plan with milestones for the rest of the semester. Each student has to present his/her task, the research questions, and explain how and why they chose their work units the way they did.
- The following dates are chosen such that the students need to present their achievements vis-à-vis their own project plans, depicted in form of GANTT-charts. In the case that milestones are missed or achieved earlier than planned, they need to lay down the reasons and adjust their project plan accordingly.
- Each presentation must always be distributed via the mailing list (mailman), with an intentional forced size limit of 60 KB. This serves two purposes: the students get a common, almost unsolvable challenge, which – usually after moderation by the professor – in general causes them to use the mailing list to help each other. In the process they get sensible towards bandwidth and presentation size problems in general and why basic IT know how (like picture sizes, colour depths and screen sizes) are important.
- While the seminar takes place the students can use the mailing list to help each other, and approach at any time the professor for advice (electronically or in person). In case assistants are advising students as well, they would get approached outside of the class meetings too.
- The final presentations (including discussions) take 30 minutes for seminar papers, 45 minutes else. In the „ski-seminar“ format in the winter-semester (external to the WU) they last 45 minutes and 90 minutes, respectively.
Students who fail to show up at presentations must write up a five-page summary in English, which is only possible, if they read the missed papers. This way it is assured, that the students learn about the work and the results of their colleagues.

It is quite common that the students are overachieving the set forth goals.