

**Fall 2011**  
**Special Topics to Consider**

HF 785: Ethnography of Work for Design

*Prerequisite(s):* None.

*Note:* Permission of the MSHFID Director is required for all but the MSHFID, MSID, MSMBA programs or MBA concentrators in: HFID, IT, IPM or MOT; This course may be used as an HF Elective in the MSHFID or MSIT programs and in the MBA HFID Concentration. This course may also be used as an unrestricted elective in the IPM, IT, and MOT concentrations.

This course will introduce students to the ethnographic method of research. Generally speaking, ethnographic research involves naturalistic inquiry aimed at capturing social phenomenon as they occur in a particular setting. Ethnographers can employ multiple data collection strategies to do this, but typically focus on participant/observation methodologies as a primary approach. While primarily found in social science disciplines such as anthropology and sociology, ethnographic approaches increasing are being applied in IT/IS fields for the purposes of achieving better technological designs, improving the user experience, and facilitating collaborative work. This course will introduce the student to the origins of the ethnographic method, discuss the theoretical bases of its use, identify strategies for successful ethnographic inquiry, develop initial skills for data analysis and reporting, and provide examples of how ethnographic studies of work and technological use have been used in a variety of business and organizational contexts.

HF 795: Research Methods for Human Factors

*Prerequisite(s):* None.

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This class prepares students to engage in professional and scholarly research in human factors with an emphasis on user-experience design. By critiquing research methodologies and methods from journal and practitioner publications, students will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of particular research designs. Through lectures, readings, and interactive classroom discussions of research studies, students will learn how to apply the most appropriate research methodology(s) and method(s) to a particular research problem. The course covers the full spectrum of research from basic to applied.