PhD-course: IT & Change

Introduction
Change is a central concept in many disciplines. It goes under many names and forms, such as transformation, development, reform and learning to mention a few. Information technology is by its very nature related to change, leading to intended or unintended change of organizations, processes, work practices, power relations and professional roles. It is not often explicitly addressed, but it is always there. This course sets out to investigate a set of basic themes that are central to our understanding of change and what it means for the IT-field.

The course is a collective investigation of the change concept where the PhD-students and course instructors together explore the territory of change literature, theories, and the popular rhetoric of change. The course is based on seminars and guest lectures. Depending on the enrolled students the course will be taught in Swedish or English.

Course Instructors
Jan Ljungberg, Professor in Informatics, The IT-University, Göteborg
Magnus Bergquist, Associate Professor in Ethnology, The IT-University, Göteborg

Guests
Ole Hanseth, Professor, department of Informatics, University of Oslo
Jan Pries-Heje, Associate Professor, IT-University, Copenhagen & IT-University, Göteborg
Berner Lindström, Professor, Faculty of Education, Göteborg University
Torbjörn Stjernberg, Professor, Dept. of Business, Handelshögskolan, Göteborg University
Maria Tullberg, Fil. Dr. Dept. of Business, and Gothenburg Research Institute (GRI), Handelshögskolan, Göteborg University

Course Objectives
• To develop a theoretical and conceptual understanding of organizational change and how it relates to the field of information technology.
• To further develop skills in critically reading and evaluating scholarly works.
• To contribute to the PhD-student’s intellectual process as well as his/her PhD-project.

Credits
5 Swedish points or 7,5 ECTS points

Examination
Presentation at literature seminar
Active participation in class work
Course assignment (paper) presented at workshop (ending the course)

Contact
For questions and enrollment in the course contact Jan Ljungberg: janl@informatik.gu.se

Course Start: 28 February, 10-12
Location: IT-University, Göteborg, Forskningsgången 6, Hus Patricia

– Gothenburg Graduate School in Information Technology Studies –
Preliminary Schedule

1. Introduction
   28 February (Steve Jobs, Floor 2)
   10-12 Introduction to the course

2. Organizational Change
   7 March
   9-12 Literature seminar
   - Themes in classical change literature. What is change? Who decides about change? Who drives/leads the change? What kinds of change are there? What obstacles are there?

   Literature:
   Lewin, Kurt The complete social scientist: a Kurt Lewin reader (excerpt).

   13-15 Guest lecture: Torbjörn Stjernberg

   Literature:

3. Culture and Change
   14 March
   9-12 Literature seminar
   - What is culture? The culture concept in organizational research. IT and culture.

   Literature:

   13-15 Guest Lecture
   To be announced
4. Narratives, Psychology and Change  
28 March

9-12 Literature seminar
- Narrative and psychological approaches to change

13-15 Guest lecture: Maria Tullberg

Literature:

5. Infrastructure and Change  
6 April

9-12 Literature seminar
- Agency and structure, Infrastructure

13-15 Guest lecture: Ole Hanseth

6. Learning, Knowledge and Change  
25 April

9-12 Literature seminar
Berner Lindström

13-15 Guest lecture: Berner Lindström

7. IT and Change  
9 May

9-12 Literature seminar
- IT as driver of change or adapted to change. Intended and unintended consequences of IT.

Literature:


13-15 Guest Lecture: Jan Pries-Heje

Literature:
8. Change Management 23 May
9-12 Literature seminar
Is it possible to manage change? How? By who?

Literature:

13-15 Guest Lecture
To be announced

9. Change Workshop 24 May
9-17 Workshop with practical exercises.

10. IS and Organizational Change Track at ECIS 2006 12-14 June
The research track on IS and Organizational Change at the ECIS conference held in Gothenburg will be open for participation for the PhD-students enrolled in the course.

11. Paper Workshop late August
Presentations of student assignments (papers).