



School of Information Management

Te Kura Tiaki, Whakawhiti Kōrero

INFO 401

FOUNDATIONS OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH

Trimester 1, 2005

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr Beverley Hope, PhD *Hawaii*, MBA, BS *Kansas*

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Phone: 463-5876

Room: EA 216

Office hours: after class or by appointment

CLASS TIMES AND ROOM NUMBERS

Dates: 23 February to 25 May 2004

Times: Wednesdays, 10.00-12:50
and other times as arranged

Venue: Room EA 001

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course provides an overview of some of the main streams of research that contribute to the field of information systems. The course will provide students with the perspective needed to appreciate current and future trends in information systems research.

By the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Describe, integrate, and apply to research situations the findings of selected articles in designated thematic areas of Information Systems as listed in the course timetable.
2. Perform a thorough search for relevant Information Systems research in print media, CD-ROM, online databases, and Internet resources.
3. Evaluate academic articles including both research papers and surveys of others' research.
4. Write a concise, logical, and integrated review of academic literature, using appropriate style, language, citation, and referencing.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Notices relating to this course will be announced in class or distributed via an INFO 401 email distribution list. Please keep the course co-ordinator and MCA Director informed of any change in your preferred email address.

Some material will be placed on Blackboard: <http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>

INFO 401 COURSE CONTENT

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC
1	23 Feb	THE IS DISCIPLINE
		<i>Writing Summaries & Critiques: Course details</i>
2	02 Mar	RIGOR, RELEVANCE, AND CONSUMABLE RESEARCH
		<i>Writing a literature review: Synthesis not summary.</i>
3	09 Mar	INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH (AND BUSINESS NEEDS)
		<i>Finding relevant articles for a literature review.</i>
4	16 Mar	RESEARCH FRAMEWORKS IN IS
		<i>DUE: Annotation (Baskerville& Myers., 2002. Reading 2.2)</i>
5	23 Mar	IS SUCCESS
		<i>Citing and Referencing your sources: APA format</i>
EASTER AND MID-TERM BREAK		
6	13 Apr	INFORMATION
		<u>DUE in class: Ann. Bibliography, 5%; Lit. Review Outline, 5%</u>
7	20 Apr	SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT
8	27 Apr	TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTANCE
9	04 May	TASK TECHNOLOGY FIT
		<u>DUE Friday, 6 May: Literature Review, 40%</u>
10	11 May	USER SATISFACTION
		<i>DUE: Review "Critical success factors ... Reading 11.5)</i>
11	18 May	THE RESEARCH PROJECT AND ITS PUBLICATION
		<i>DUE: Mark Sheet for 408 project.</i>
12	25 May	END TERM: 30%

Although we intend to follow the schedule as closely as possible, variations may be necessary. Any changes will be communicated via the normal channels (see page 1).

READINGS

An essential set of readings is available from student notes.

ASSESSMENT:

Course assessment will be based on:

		<u>Due Date</u>
Article Reviews & Seminar Leadership	20%	Wed, as assigned 8.00 am*
Annotated Bibliography	5%	Wed, 13 April, 4.30 pm
Literature Review Outline	5%	Wed, 13 April, 4.30 pm
Literature Review	40%	<u>Fri</u>, 6 May, 12.30 pm
End Term Test	30%	Wed, 25 May, 10:00 am

* Article reviews and associated PowerPoint presentation slides are due via email by 8.00 am on the day of presentation. It is expected that you will send them by email on the previous evening (or earlier).

Article Reviews: Each week designated students will lead class discussion of assigned articles. This involves summarising and briefly critiquing the article in light of related literature and leading a class discussion of the article. In addition, a written summary and critique, together with slides for a PowerPoint presentation, must be provided to the lecturer by 8.00 am on the day of the presentation. Details will be provided in a separate document and discussed in the first session. No extensions can be granted on this assessment item.

Testing Objective 3.

Annotated Bibliography: You will make an extensive search of the literature through online databases and other library resources to identify 14-18 good articles relevant to your Literature Review topic and prepare an annotated bibliography. This is a list of citations to research journal articles or research-informed chapters in edited books. Each citation is followed by a brief (150-200 word) descriptive paragraph (the annotation). The purpose of the annotation is to inform the compiler and reader of the main ideas, findings, relevance, and contribution of each article.

Testing Objectives 2 & 3.

Literature Review Outline: A detailed outline of the proposed literature review, including headings and subheadings with a 4-10 line summary or bulleted list under each heading clearly indicating the intended content of each section or sub-section. For each section, include a list of possible citations (where possible). The objective of the outline is to demonstrate comprehensiveness and logical flow of ideas and to obtain feedback.

Testing Objectives 1 & 4

Literature Review: An introduction to a proposed (INFO 408) research project, and a comprehensive literature review. You will make an extensive search of academic literature through online databases and other library resources. Limited searching of the Internet may be undertaken but is not expected. Details will be provided in a separate document and discussed in the second class session.

Testing Objectives 1, 2, 3, & 4.

End-Term Test: This test assesses your understanding of and ability to integrate all course material. It will be held during normal class time on Wednesday, 31 May 2004. The test will be held in a computer lab, with use of computers recommended but not compulsory. You may bring to this test three A4 sheets of paper with the knowledge of your choice written on each side (total 6 sides). The knowledge summary must be in your own handwriting (or typescript) and no photocopies will be permitted. Further details will be advised in class closer to the date.

Testing Objectives 1, 3, & 4.

Late Submission: Late Article Reviews and the Test scripts will NOT be accepted. All other assessments submitted after the deadline will incur a 5% penalty (of the mark obtained) for each day late up to seven days, but will not be accepted after seven days lateness. In the event of bereavement or prolonged illness affecting your ability to meet deadlines, discuss your situation with the Course Coordinator. You must substantiate your claim with appropriate documentation, for example, a medical certificate.

WORKLOADS AND MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

You are required to attend all course sessions, read assigned materials, and contribute to discussions. For each week of the course, plan to spend three hours in class and six to eight hours preparing for class. Additional time will be required for completion of course assignments.

Attendance: On-time attendance is mandatory. Do NOT miss class. Do NOT be late.

Mandatory Requirements: To pass the course, you must gain a minimum of 40% on both the literature review and the end-term test. To obtain a fair distribution of marks relative to assignment difficulty, scaling of marks may be employed on some or all assessments.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly those regarding assessment and course of study requirements, and formal academic grievance procedures.

Student Conduct and Staff Conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps can be taken if there is a complaint. For queries about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor. This Statute is available in the Faculty Student Administration Office or on the website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StudentConduct. The policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StaffConduct.

Academic Grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned or, if you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the Associate Dean (Students) of your Faculty. Class representatives are available to assist you with this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievances Policy which is published on the VUW website: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/AcademicGrievances.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means **no cheating**. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. Plagiarism is **prohibited** at Victoria. *The University defines plagiarism as follows:*

“Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not.”

‘Someone else’s work’ means anything that is not your own idea, even if it is presented in your own style. It includes material from books, journals or any other printed source, the work of other students or staff, information from the Internet, software programmes and other electronic material, designs and ideas. It also includes the organization or structuring of any such material.

Plagiarism is not worth the risk.

Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct (www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct) and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- suspension from class or university
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course.

Find out more about plagiarism and how to avoid it, on the University's website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html.

Students with Disabilities

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities an equal opportunity with all other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, then please contact the Course Coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services to confidentially discuss your individual needs and the options and support that are available. Disability Support Services are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building, or phoning 463-6070, email: disability@vuw.ac.nz. The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person can be obtained from the Administrative Assistant or the School Prospectus.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students' learning experiences at the University to be positive. If your academic progress is causing you concern, please contact the relevant Course Co-ordinator, or Associate Dean who will either help you directly or put you in contact with someone who can. The Student Services Group is also available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/ or email student-services@vuw.ac.nz.

VUWSA employs two Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building, phone 463 6983 or 463 6984, email education@vuwsa.org.nz.