

School of Information Management

Info 402 Research in Information Systems B

Second Trimester 2005

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

Course Co-ordinator:

Janet Toland

Room: EA 217

Phone: 463 6861

Email: Janet.Toland@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: By appointment

Class Times and Room Numbers

Tuesday from 5 July to 4 October

Times: 10.00- 12.50

Venue: Easterfield 004

Course Objectives

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 on Information Systems as listed in the course timetable.
- 2) Evaluate and compare academic articles including both research papers and surveys of each others' research.
- 3) Identify, analyse and describe current and emerging IS themes and theories and apply them to academic or real-world situations, problems and questions.

Prerequisite: Info 401 or approved substitute

Course Content

The structure of each class

Each week, the classes will be structured along the following guidelines

10.00 – 10:10 Orientation

10:10 – 11:00 Article critique 1 and questions

11:00 – 11:40 Discussion of Article 2

11.40 – 12:00 Break

12:00 – 12:50 Orientation to next week's topic

Topic Overview

Week	Date	Topic	Leader
1	5 July Tuesday	Introduction and orientation exercise Brief recap of 401 concepts Mini-lecture: The frontiers of IS and the definition of the research domain	Janet Toland
2	12 July Tuesday	Article 1 presentation and questions Discussion article 2 Mini-lecture: Rigour and relevance Journal ranking/intended audience/editorial policy	Sid Huff
3	19 July Tuesday	Article 1 presentation and questions Discussion article 2 Mini-lecture: Outsourcing	Janet Toland
4	26 July Tuesday	Article 1 presentation and questions Discussion article 2 Mini-lecture: Knowledge management	Janet Toland
5	2 August Tuesday	Article 1 presentation and questions Discussion article 2 Mini-lecture: Diffusion of Innovation	Brian Harmer
6	9 August Tuesday	Article 1 presentation and questions Discussion article 2 Discussion/into to conference posters	Janet Toland
7	16 August Tuesday (TBA)	Poster making session Mini-lecture: Is IT a commodity?	Janet Toland
		MID TERM BREAK	
8	6 September Tuesday	Article 1 presentation and questions Discussion article 2 Mini-lecture: Diagramming and visualization: Theory and application for information systems	Mary Tate
9	13 September Tuesday	Article 1 presentation and questions - 1 Discussion article 2 Mini-lecture: E-government	Janet Toland
10	20 September Tuesday	Article 1 presentation and questions Discussion article 2 Mini-lecture: Health Informatics	Berenika Webster
11	27 September Tuesday	Article 1 presentation and questions Discussion article 2 Mini-lecture: The New Zealand research context	Janet Toland
12	4 October Tuesday	Discussion: IS Research in the New Zealand context Getting published - discussion Summary and relevance for future research	MED Speaker

Although we intend to follow the schedule as closely as possible, variations may be necessary. Any changes will be communicated via the e-mail list for this course. .

Readings

Text: A set of readings for this course will be supplied in class. There is no set text.

Literature: You will make extensive use of the University Library print and electronic media and limited use of Internet resources.

Assessment Requirements

Course assessment will be based on:

Critique and seminar leadership 1	15%
Critique and seminar leadership 2	15%
Article Review and Editing assignment	25%
Essay	25%
Participation	20%
TOTAL	100%

Article critique and seminar leadership (2 x 15%)

For each class session, one student will prepare and present a detailed critique of a recently published article related to the topic for that week (approximately 1000-1500 words). This student will also lead the class discussion of the topic.

Due: ongoing

Testing Objectives 1, 2 and 3.

Weekly Participation (20%)

We will monitor each individual's course participation, emphasizing quality, not just quantity or frequency. We expect you to attend every class, to read the readings for each week, and to come prepared to contribute to class discussion. While we prefer volunteers in class discussions we may "cold call" you at any time. We particularly value the injection of a unique perspective into a discussion, inter-relating various analyses, and drawing together or synthesising things learned from a discussion. Timely and useful questions can also be an effective contribution. Gathering and presenting information beyond the confines of the course readings is also highly valued. Chip shots – brief "me too" comments that add little to the discussion – are not highly valued.

Due: ongoing

Testing Objectives 1, 2 and 3

Article Review and Editing Assignment (25%)

The Article Review and Editing assignment will simulate the review process carried out by a reviewer for a conference or journal, and the editorial process carried out by the journal editor or conference organiser. *Testing Objectives 1, 2 and 3*

Due: Part 1 (Article Reviews): 9 August

Due: Part 2 (Editors report): 6 September

Testing Objectives 1, 2 and 3.

Essay (25%)

Students will present an essay on a general topic related to research in information systems and electronic commerce. The purpose of this essay is to gain experience in developing a line of argument supported by previously published research.

Due: 11 October

Testing Objectives 1, 2 and 3.

Penalties

In fairness to other students, assignment work submitted after the deadline will incur a 10% penalty for each actual day (prior to 1.00 pm) late. In the event of bereavement or prolonged

illness affecting your ability to meet the deadline, discuss your situation with the Course Co-ordinator. You must verify your claim, e.g., produce a medical certificate. In doing so you consent to your supporting documentation being checked by the Course Co-ordinator. Extensions will only be granted under these conditions.

Mandatory Course Requirements

You are expected 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, six to eight hours preparing for class.

Attendance: An attendance register will be kept. It is expected that Honours students will attend all classes and inform the course coordinator if for some reason they cannot attend.

Mandatory Requirements: To pass the course, you must gain a minimum of 40% on each item of assessment and a weighted average of 50% across all assessments. To obtain a fair distribution of marks relative to assignment difficulty, scaling of marks may be employed on some or all assessments.

Tutorials: There are no weekly tutorials for this course.

Communication of Additional Information

Any additional information will be conveyed to students via the Blackboard system and by announcements in lectures.

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

Railway West Wing (RWW) - FCA Student Administration Office

The Student Administration Office is located on the ground and first floors of the Railway West Wing. The ground floor counter is the first point of contact for general enquiries and FCA forms. Student Administration Advisers are available to discuss course status and give further advice about FCA qualifications.

Easterfield (EA) - FCA/Law Kelburn Office

The Kelburn Campus Office for the Faculties of Commerce & Administration and Law is situated in the Easterfield Building - it includes the ground floor reception desk (EA005) and offices 125a to 131 (Level 1). The office, will be open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm during Trimester 2, offers the following:

- Duty tutors for student contact and advice.
- Information concerning administrative and academic matters.
- FCA Student Administration forms (e.g. application for academic transcripts, requests for degree audit, COP requests).
- Examinations-related information during the examination period.

Please note:

There will be a Student Administration Adviser, from the RWW office, based in EA005 from Monday 27 June to Friday 1 July (9:00 am to 5:00 pm) and from Monday 4 July to Friday 22 July (11:00 am to 1:00 pm).

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 Adviser. 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 Grievance 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.

Maori and Pacific Mentoring programme (Manaaki Pihipihinga)

This is a free programme of mentoring for Maori and Pacific students doing first year courses within the Faculty of Commerce and Administration. Weekly one hour mentoring sessions: drafting and editing assignments/discussing any questions that you might have from tutorials or lectures and going over every aspect of essay writing, either in small group sessions or on a one-to-one basis.

This includes:

- A computer suite hooked up to cyber commons for students to use to produce their assignments.
- Regular skill-based workshops with a learning adviser from Student Learning Support Services.
- Networking with other Maori and Pacific support groups throughout the university.

For more information please contact:

Melissa Dunlop, Programme Coordinator

Ph: 463 6015 or Email: Maori-Pacific-Mentoring@vuw.ac.nz