

School of Information Management

Te Kura Tiaki, Whakawhiti Kōrero

INFO 401 FOUNDATIONS OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH

Trimester 1, 2006
COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR: Mary Tate

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Room: EA 234

Office hours: by appointment

CLASS TIMES AND ROOM NUMBERS

Dates: 2 March to 1 June 2005

Times: Thursdays, 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 have contributed 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. This course also builds skills that will assist students in developing the capability to carry out independent research in the fields of information systems and electronic commerce.

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

1. Understand some of the core “body of knowledge” in the information systems field.
2. 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.
3. Perform a thorough search for relevant Information Systems research in print media, CD-ROM, online databases, and Internet resources.
4. Evaluate academic articles including both research papers and surveys of others' research.
5. 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. From time to time, some material may be placed on the Blackboard site for the course.

Week	Date	Topic
1	2 March	THE IS DISCIPLINE <i>Course details</i> <i>In class review exercise: The IS Discipline</i> <i>In class review exercise: Writing summaries & critiques of academic articles</i>
2	9 March	INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH (AND BUSINESS NEEDS) <i>In-class review exercise: Writing a literature review: Synthesis not summary.</i> Article critiques
3	16 March	RIGOR, RELEVANCE, AND CONSUMABLE RESEARCH <i>In class review exercise: Library searching - finding relevant articles for a literature review.</i> Article critiques
4	23 March	RESEARCH FRAMEWORKS IN IS <i>In class review exercise: Literature Review Outline Poster Session</i> Article critiques DUE Thursday 23 March, in class: Ann. Bibliography, 10%; Lit. Review Outline, 5%
5	30 March	IS SUCCESS <i>In class review exercise: Writing</i> Article critiques
6	7 April	TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTANCE <i>In class exercise: Citing and Referencing your sources: APA format</i> Article critiques
Mid-Term Break		
7	28 April	SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT
8	4 May	INFORMATION
9	11 May	TASK TECHNOLOGY FIT
10	18 May	USER SATISFACTION DUE Monday 15 May, 9:00 am, by e-mail: Literature Review
11	25 May	THE IS DISCIPLINE REPRISED Entering the discourse: THE RESEARCH PROJECT AND ITS PUBLICATION
12	1 June	END TERM TEST: 30% (in class)

Although we intend to follow the schedule as closely as possible, variations may be necessary.

Overview

In the first half of the course, some time will be devoted to building practical skills in synthesizing literature, academic writing, and correct referencing. Students are expected to carry out a practical exercise in preparation for each class and will review the exercise in pairs or groups at the start of each session. These exercises are aimed at developing the

independent research skills that you will need later in the program. Following that, we will do academic article reviews and discussion presented and led by students. The second half of the course will focus more strongly on reviewing articles and topics that are seminal to the development of the IS discipline, and discussion of the issues and themes raised by these articles.

Each week a sample question will be provided. Questions in the final test will be similar to these weekly questions.

You are expected, as a minimum, to be thoroughly familiar with ALL the essential course readings, and to come to class ready to discuss topics related to these readings, regardless of whether they have been presented in class. The supplementary material on the CD is provided as a resource for your use.

Course Materials

An essential set of readings will be distributed in class. Supplementary materials will be provided on a CD-ROM.

ASSESSMENT:

Course assessment will be based on:

		Due Date	
Article Reviews & Seminar Leadership	20%	Thurs, as assigned	8.00 am*
Annotated Bibliography	10%	Thurs 23 March	in class
Literature Review Outline	5%	Thurs, 23 March	in class
Literature Review	35%	Mon, 15 May	9:00 am
End Term Test	30%	Thurs, 1 June	in class

* 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 1,2 and 4.

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 and 5.

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. In addition, you must supply a “poster” summary of your outline. This is an A4 (or larger) diagram that shows the outline of the argument structure you are proposing for your literature review.

Testing Objectives 2,3,4 and 5

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 and 5.

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 1,2, 4 and 5

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.