

School of Information Management

Info 402 Research in Information Systems B

Trimester Two 2006

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

Monday from 10 July to 13 October

Times: 10.00- 12.50

Venue: HU324

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 Article critique 2 and questions

11.40 – 12:00 Break

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

Week	Date	Topic	Leader
1	10 July Monday	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	17 July Monday	Mini-lecture: Rigour and relevance Journal ranking/intended audience/editorial policy Article 1 presentation and questions Reviewing Exercise	Sid Huff
3	24 July Monday	Article 1 presentation and questions Article 2 presentation and questions Mini-lecture: Enterprise Resource Planning	Janet Toland
4	31 July Monday	Reviewing for Encyclopedia of IST Mini-lecture: Outsourcing	Hugo Gong
5	7 August Monday	Article 1 presentation and questions Article 2 presentation and questions Discussion/ intro to conference posters	Janet Toland
6	14 August Monday	Poster making session Mini-lecture: Knowledge Management	Sally Dexter
		MID TERM BREAK	
7	4 September Monday	Article 1 presentation and questions Article 2 presentation and questions Mini-lecture: E-government	Janet Toland
8	11 September Monday	Article 1 presentation and questions Article 2 presentation and questions Mini-lecture: The Semantic Web	Janet Toland
9	18 September Monday	Article 1 presentation and questions Article 2 presentation and questions Mini-lecture: Blogs & Wikis	Carmel Joe
10	25 September Monday	Article 1 presentation and questions Article 2 presentation and questions Mini-lecture: Community Informatics	Janet Toland
11	2 October Monday	Article 1 presentation and questions Article 2 presentation and questions Mini-lecture: The New Zealand research context	Janet Toland
12	9 October Monday	Discussion: IS Research in the New Zealand context Getting published - discussion Summary and relevance for future research	

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. .

Expected Workload

For each week of the course, plan to spend three hours in class, six to eight hours preparing for class. Additional time will be required for the completion of course assignments.

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	30%
Essay	30%
Participation	10%
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 (10%)

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 (30%)

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): 7 August

Due: Part 2 (Editors report): 4 September

Testing Objectives 1, 2 and 3.

Essay (30%)

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: 16 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.

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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 and Academic Services Office

The Faculty's Student and Academic Services 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. To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

Easterfield (EA) - FCA/Education/Law Kelburn Office

The Kelburn Campus Office for the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, Education 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 is available for the following:

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

To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

General University Policies and Statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hard copy or under 'About Victoria' on the VUW home page at www.vuw.ac.nz.

Student 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 are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to the statute on the VUW policy 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; class representatives may be able to help you in this. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean; VUWSA Education Coordinators are available to assist in 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 at 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. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other student or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalised severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

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

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 Impairments

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as 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, 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 (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building, telephone (04) 463 6070, email disability@vuw.ac.nz. The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained from the School Office or DSS.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each Faculty has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is causing you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Māori, Manaaki Pihipihinga or Victoria International.

In addition, the Student Services Group (email student-services@vuw.ac.nz) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/.

VUWSA employs 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 (tel. 04 463 6983 or 04 463 6984, email education@vuwsa.org.nz) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.

Manaaki Pihipihinga - Maori and Pacific Mentoring Programme (Faculty of Commerce and Administration)

This is a mentoring service for Maori and Pacific students studying at all levels. Weekly one hour sessions are held at the Kelburn and Pipitea Campuses in the Mentoring Rooms, 14 Kelburn Parade, and Room 210 and 211, Level 2, Railway West Wing. Sessions cover drafting and discussing assignments, essay writing, and any questions that may arise from tutorials and/or lectures. A computer suite networked to Cyber Commons is available for student use.

To register with Manaaki Pihipihinga, please contact one of the following:

Puawai Wereta
Room 210, Level 2
Railway West Wing
Tel. (04) 463 8997
Email: Puawai.Wereta@vuw.ac.nz

Fa'afai Seiuli
Room 109 B
14 Kelburn Parade
Tel. (04) 463 5842
Email: Faafoi.Seiuli@vuw.ac.nz