

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING & COMMERCIAL LAW

BITT 302 Ethical and Legal Issues for Information Technology

Trimester One 2007

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

Academic:

Mrs Susan Corbett RH 722 463 5480
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Mr Alan Cameron RH 604 463 5758
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Administrative:

Marina Dobrovolskaya RH 708 463 5775
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Class Times and Room Numbers

Lecture Times: Tuesday, Friday 16.10 – 18.00 p.m. KK 202

Tutorials: Tutorials/workshops will be built into scheduled lectures.

Course Presenters:

Mrs Susan Corbett (contact details as above)
Office hours: Thursday 2.30 – 3.30 p.m.
Friday 9.30 – 10.30 a.m.
or by appointment

Mr Alan Cameron (contact details as above)
Office hours: Wednesday 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.
or by appointment

Mr Ian Welch, School of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer
Science
ian.welch@vuw.ac.nz CO 336 463 5664

Lectures

Lectures are held from Tuesday, 27th February – Friday 1st June

Mid-Trimester break: Friday, 6th April – Friday, 20th April.

Lectures resume: Tuesday, 24th April.

University examination period:

Provisional Lecture Programme			
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Lecturer</i>	<i>Topic</i>
Week 1	27 February 2 March	Susan Corbett	Introduction to course. Why teach ethics and law to IT students? Introduction to ethics and law and the law/ethics relationship. The New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990
Week 2	6 March 9 March	Susan Corbett	Regulation in cyberspace: domain names, freedom of speech, defamation, spam.
Week 3	13 March 16 March	Susan Corbett	Intellectual property issues for computer technology and electronic information, including circumvention devices, computer software and digital music.
Week 4	20 March 23 March	Susan Corbett	Intellectual property issues continued Writing skills Privacy. An introduction to the Privacy Act 1992
		ASSIGNMENT TOPIC TO BE SELECTED BY 23rd MARCH	
Week 5	27 March 30 March	 Ian Welch	Guest speaker (Mr Stephen Revill, Solicitor, Bell Gully). Privacy issues for information technology Professional ethics and the development of safety critical software
Week 6	3 April GOOD FRIDAY	Ian Welch No Lecture	Professional ethics and the development of safety critical software. <i>(continued)</i>

Weeks 7, 8	EASTER - Mid Trimester Break		
Week 9	24 April		TERMS TEST
	27 April	Susan Corbett	Open source software.
Week 10	1 May	Alan Cameron	1.IT, Ethics & Contract Law:
	4 May	Alan Cameron	2. Contract Law.
Week 11	8 May	Alan Cameron	Electronic Transactions Act and contract law.
	11 May	Alan Cameron	Case Study: Contract Law.
ASSIGNMENT DUE 18 May 2007 4.10 p.m.			
Week 12	15 May	Alan Cameron	Law: computer crime and computer security (or S Revill – IT Contracts).
	18 May	Alan Cameron	Case studies – computer crime/security, hacking, viruses (Or S Revill – Contracts).
Week 13	22 May	Alan Cameron	Artificial intelligence.
	25 May	Alan Cameron	Case Study: Artificial Intelligence.
Week 14	29 May	Alan Cameron	Institutions, Ethics & Law.
	1 June	Alan Cameron	One of the sessions this week will (at the lecturer’s discretion) include time for group discussion and preparation of the Group Assessment Reports.
Group Assessment Report DUE 1 June 2007 4.10 p.m.			

Course Objectives

To enable students:

- To appreciate some of the ethical issues that may arise in information technology.
- To be aware of legal requirements relevant to information technology.
- To be able to critically analyse and apply appropriate ethical and legal principles to real-life scenarios involving aspects of information technology.

Course Content

See Provisional Lecture Programme on page 2 of this Course Outline.

Readings

Everyone is expected to prepare the assigned reading for each class.

1. BITT 302 Course Materials (2007) Vol I
2. BITT 302 Course Materials (2007) Vol II

There is no prescribed textbook, however other materials will be handed out in class. There is no charge for class handouts.

The following books have been placed on Reserve for BITT 302 at Central Reserves Desk, Main Library, Level 2, Rankin Brown Building, Kelburn:

1. *"Computer and Information Ethics"* by J Weckert & D Adeney
2. *"Ethics of Cyberspace"* by C J Hamelink
3. *"The Principles of Information Ethics"* by R W Severson
4. *"Information Technology and Society: A Reader"* by N Heap, R Thomas et al
5. *Computers, Ethics, and Society"* M David Ermann & Michele Sauf
6. *"I, Cyborg"* by Kevin Warwick
7. *"Open Source Licensing"* by Lawrence Rosen

Materials and Equipment

The Terms Test and Final Exam are both open book and you may bring whatever materials you like into the exam room.

Note: during the course additional handouts may be distributed.

Assessment Requirements

Term's Test (<i>open book</i>)	15%	Tues 24 April 16.15 - 17.15 p.m.
Assignment	25%	Due: Friday 18 May at 4.10 p.m.
Group assessment	10%	Due: 1 June at 4.10 p.m.
Final Exam (<i>open book</i>)	50%	June 2007

Term's Test

A terms test will be held on Tuesday 24 April 2007 from 4.15 – 5.15 p.m. in KK 202.

The terms test will examine topics covered in lectures up until and including week 6 of the course. The test will consist of two compulsory questions having equal marks. **The terms test is open book.**

Group Assessment Report

The group assessment report is due at the end of the last day of Trimester 1 (6 p.m. Friday 1 June 2007

The group assessment report will be awarded a mark out of 10 and all members of the group will be awarded this mark. However if any member of the group has failed to attend at least 18 lecture sessions (not including the Terms Test session) that student will have their individual mark for the Group Report reduced by 50%.

Assignment

The assignment is due by 4.10 pm Friday 18 May 2007.

Completed assignments should be handed to Mr Cameron during the lecture or placed in the BITT 302 Assignment Box (on the Mezzanine Floor, Rutherford House).

Assignments should **not** exceed 2000 words. This word limit will be strictly adhered to.

Details of the assignment:

1. Your allocated group should choose a topic **relevant to this course** that would be suitable as the basis for a case study. This topic must be approved by the lecturing team before you proceed further.

The topic must be selected and given to your lecturer for approval during the lecture scheduled for 23 March 2007.

2. As a group you should discuss and research your approved topic. A group email contact list will be set up on Blackboard for each group to assist you with your discussions.

3. Each student is then required to write an **individual assignment on the approved topic** in the following format:

- a. Write a scenario for a case study from a New Zealand perspective. Students from other countries may, if they wish, set the chosen topic in their own home country and discuss the issues raised from that country's perspective.

(8 marks)

- b. Raise 3-4 issues for discussion at the end of your scenario.

(5 marks)

- c. Apply the ethical and legal principles you have learnt in this course to those issues in order to provide a structured analysis or commentary to each issue. This is likely to involve you making recommendations to one or more of the characters in your scenario.

(12 marks)

- d. Note: The above marks include marks for originality, structure, evidence of research and depth of analysis. Marks will be deducted for careless editing - including incorrect grammar and spelling and poorly structured writing.

4. **Do not** plagiarise. Use footnotes or endnotes to reference all ideas or quotations from another work.

5. Please include a bibliography of all research sources that you have used for writing your report.

6. **Do not** grossly exceed the word limit (10% tolerance is acceptable) – after this point the work will not be marked. Please state your word count on the front page of the assignment.

7. Note that spelling, punctuation and format also form a component of the mark, although marks are not awarded for a fancy folder or clip art!! A staple in the top left corner is sufficient.

8. Provide a separate cover sheet that shows:

The Title
Your Name
The Course Code
The word count

9. Leave a 2inch (5 cm) margin and adequate spacing, to enable room for comments.

Penalties

Extensions will not be granted after the due date (see previous page) unless in exceptional circumstances. Late assignments will have a flat 5% penalty deducted per day late. (For example, a mark of 67% would become 62% if a day later). Assignments can, of course, be handed in early.

Group assessment report

The group assessment report is due at the end of the last day of Trimester 1 (6 p.m. Friday 1 June 2007).

Details:

As a group, you are required to write a 500-word report in which you describe and critique the work carried out by the group during this course. You will be given some time in the last week of scheduled lecture time to discuss and prepare your report in draft.

Your report should mention specific areas related to the group activities. These areas might include an appraisal of the varied contributions made by individual members of the group (one member might have been better at researching, another at speaking etc), an analysis of how and why the group worked or did not work well as a team, how your group overcame any specific difficulties, key achievements by your group, etc.

All members of the group must sign the final copy of the group assessment report.

Reports should not exceed **500** words. This word limit will be strictly adhered to. The group assessment report will be awarded a mark out of 10 and all members of the group will be awarded this mark. However if any member of the group has failed to attend at least 18 lecture sessions (not including the Terms Test session) that student will have their individual mark for the Group Report reduced by 50%.

Note: In the event that any member of the group is dissatisfied with the contents of the group report, they may, by arrangement with the course coordinator (which must be applied for no later than 1 p.m. 6th June 2007), submit a 100 word 'minority report' setting out their own views of their group's achievements.

Mandatory Course Requirements

All items of assessment are compulsory and necessary for terms.

You must complete both the Terms Test and Assignment and obtain at least a 40% grade in each. Regular attendance at lectures (and preparation) is also required – see attendance requirements for the Group Assessment described above.

Communication of Additional Information

Once you have registered for this course you should be able to connect to Blackboard at <http://blackboard.scs.vuw.ac.nz>. If you are not registered, please contact the FCA office on the ground floor of the Railway West Wing opposite Rutherford House. If you cannot access

Blackboard after 48 hours please come to our office at RH708 where we can enrol you on Blackboard.

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 or go to www.vuw.ac.nz/policy.

For information on the following topics, go to the Faculty's website www.vuw.ac.nz/fca under Important Information for Students:

- Academic Grievances
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

Manaaki Pihipihinga is an academic mentoring programme for undergraduate Māori and Pacific students in the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, and Humanities and Social Sciences. Sessions are held at the Kelburn and Pipitea Campuses in the Mentoring Rooms, 14 Kelburn Parade (back courtyard), Room 109D, and Room 210, Level 2, Railway West Wing. There is also a Pacific Support Coordinator who assists Pacific students by linking them to the services and support they need while studying at Victoria. Another feature of the programme is a support network for Postgraduate students with links to Postgraduate workshops and activities around Campus.

For further information, or to register with the programme, email manaaki-pihipihinga-programme@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 5233 ext. 8977. To contact the Pacific Support Coordinator, email pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 5842.