



School of Information Management

## **INFO 391 RESEARCH PAPER IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

Trimester 1, 2 and 3 2007

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

#### **Contact Details**

*Co-ordinator:* Val Hooper  
Easterfield 109, Kelburn Parade  
Tel: (04) 463-5020,  
E-mail: [val.hooper@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:val.hooper@vuw.ac.nz)  
Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm

*Notices:* Since there is a one-on-one relationship between the student and the supervisor, the two should make arrangements as to how best to remain in regular contact.

*Course Dates:* Trimester 1: 26 February 2007 – 1 June 2007  
Trimester 2: 9 July 2007 – 12 October 2007  
Trimester 3: 19 November 2007 – 8 February 2008

#### **Class Times and Room Numbers**

*Times:* Regular meetings with supervisor.

*Time commitment:* Expect to spend 12-14 hours per week on work related to INFO 391.

*Lectures or tutorial:* There are no regular lectures or tutorials.

*Research seminars:* These will be held as needed.

#### **Course Aims**

This course provides an opportunity for students to complete a research project on an information systems topic. It is intended for high achieving students nearing the end of their degree who have demonstrated, through their academic record, that they are capable of largely independent work of a high standard.

A student may undertake this course if, and only if: (a) the course coordinator determines that the student has a sufficiently strong previous academic record such that a course of independent study is appropriate; (b) a suitably qualified member of staff with an interest in, and knowledge of, the student's proposed area of study is willing and able to serve as supervisor for the student.

The school cannot guarantee that an appropriately qualified member of staff will be available to act as supervisor in every instance. The School does not expect more than two or three such offerings of INFO 391 in any given year.

### Course Objectives

Students passing this course should be able to:

1. identify, clarify and investigate a research problem in information systems;
2. locate, analyse, and integrate relevant literature;
3. gather and analyse additional data if appropriate; and
4. present a coherent, well-organised argument (written and oral) based on the above.

### Prerequisites

- At least 24 points of prior 300 level INFO courses, and an academic record with a minimum B+ average;
- An established relationship with an INFO academic who has expressed a willingness to supervise the student in an agreed topic of mutual interest in the field of Information Systems; and
- The consent of the Head of School, who may delegate this authority to the Director of Undergraduate Programmes.

### Readings

*Recommended Text:* Creswell, J. (2003). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods approaches*. (2 ed) Sage, Thousand Oaks, CA. (This book need not be purchased. It is available in the library, call number H62 C919 R 2ed)

*Literature:* You will make extensive use of the library print and CD-ROM media as well as online academic literature databases.

### Assessment Requirements

		<u>Due Date</u>
<i>Written Research Report</i>	100%	5pm Last working day of the trimester in which you are enrolled in:
		Trimester 1: 1 June 2007
		Trimester 2: 12 October 2007
		Trimester 3: 8 February 2008

*Written research report:* Your supervisor will help you in planning and preparing this report.

### Penalties

*Late Submission:* Written research reports submitted after the deadline will incur a 5% penalty (of the mark obtained) for each working day late. In the event of bereavement or prolonged illness affecting your ability to meet deadlines, discuss your situation with your supervisor and advise the Course Co-ordinator. You must substantiate your claim with appropriate documentation, for example, a medical certificate.

## Project Milestones

Activity	Date, time
<b>Choose a topic and a supervisor.</b> <i>Early selection of a topic sensitises you to issues and the potential value of literature you read during your other studies.</i>	<i>At least one month prior to trimester commencement</i>
<b>Submit a research proposal</b> to your chosen supervisor and the Director of Undergraduate Programmes. You should work with your proposed supervisor prior to the trimester in which the research is undertaken.	At least two weeks prior to the trimester commencement
Obtain HEC clearance as required and if so directed by the supervisor.	Prior to commencing research
<b>Submit the final draft of the written research report</b>	at a date agreed with your supervisor.
<b>Submit two copies of your written research report (plus a digital copy)</b> to the course co-ordinator.	By 5:00 pm on the last day of trimester prior to exam break

### 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](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/policy).

For information on the following topics, go to the Faculty's website [www.vuw.ac.nz/fca](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz) or phone (04) 463 5842.

**INFO 391 Research Paper in Information Systems  
Mark Sheet for Written Report**

**Student's Name:**

**Topic:**

**Marker's Name:**

	Poor	OK	Good
<b>Problem identification</b> Statement of objectives and/or hypothesis Identification of boundary of study			
<b>Understanding of the literature</b> Review of current state of knowledge Organisation of survey into appropriate themes Relevance to research objectives			
<b>Research methodology</b> Explanation of methodology Appropriate application of methodology			
<b>Results</b> Description of results Comparison and/or evaluation of results with reference to the literature			
<b>Conclusions/implications</b> Relates findings to original objectives Clear conclusions and implications Ideas for future research			
<b>Presentation</b> Communication - clear and concise Thesis meets requirements for professional competency Accurate and complete citation and referencing			
<b>Overall Impact</b> Demonstrates an ability to conduct credible research			
<b>Comments</b>	<b>Grade</b>		