

School of Information Management

INFO 402 RESEARCH IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS B

Trimester Two 2007

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

Thursday from 12 July to 11 October

Times: 9.00- 11.50

Venue: HU221

End Test

Thursday 11 October

Time: 9.00- 11.50

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

9.00 – 9:10 Orientation

9:10 – 10.00 Article critique 1 and questions

10:00 – 10:50 Article critique 2 and questions

10.50 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 11:50 Orientation to next week's topic

Week	Date	Topic
1	12 July Thursday	Introduction and orientation exercise Brief recap of 401 concepts Mini-lecture: The frontiers of IS and the definition of the research domain
2	19 July Thursday	Article 1 presentation and questions Article 2 presentation and questions Reviewing Exercise Mini-lecture: Community Informatics
3	26 July Thursday	Reviewing for Community Informatics Conference Mini-lecture: Outsourcing
4	2 August Thursday	Article 1 presentation and questions Article 2 presentation and questions Article 3 presentation and questions Mini-lecture: Rigor and Relevance in Research
5	9 August Thursday	Article 1 presentation and questions Article 2 presentation and questions Article 3 presentation and questions Discussion/ intro to conference posters
6	16 August Thursday	Poster making session Mini-lecture: Knowledge Management
MID TERM BREAK		
7	6 September Thursday	Article 1 presentation and questions Article 2 presentation and questions Mini-lecture: E-government
8	13 September Thursday	Article 1 presentation and questions Article 2 presentation and questions Article 3 presentation and questions Mini-lecture: The Semantic Web
9	20 September Thursday	Article 1 presentation and questions Article 2 presentation and questions Mini-lecture: Blogs & Wikis
10	27 September Thursday	Article 1 presentation and questions Article 2 presentation and questions Mini-lecture: Strategic Alignment
11	4 October Thursday	Article 1 presentation and questions Article 2 presentation and questions Article 3 presentation and questions Mini-lecture: IS Research in the New Zealand context
12	11 October Thursday	End Test

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 and via blackboard. 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%
End Test	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): 9 August

Due: Part 2 (Editors report): 6 September
Testing Objectives 1, 2 and 3.

End Test (30%)

The end test will be in the form of a three hour open book examination. It will consist of mini essay type questions which will cover the material discussed in Info 402. The purpose of this end test is to demonstrate the ability to reflect on, synthesise and critically evaluate the readings covered in the course.

Due: 11th 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

Failure to meet mandatory requirements does not prevent a student completing other pieces of assessment, including any examination. (See section 2 of the Assessment Handbook).

Communication of Additional Information

Any additional information will be conveyed to students via an email distribution list, 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.

Notice of Turnitin Use

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <<http://www.turnitin.com>>. Turnitin is an on-line plagiarism prevention tool which identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. Turnitin is used to assist academic staff in detecting misreferencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. You are strongly advised to check with your tutor or the course coordinator if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

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.