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School of Information Management

**MIM 501 INFORMATION SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGIES**

Trimester Two 2007

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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**Contact Details**

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**Class Times and Room Numbers**

11 July to 10 October  
Wednesday  
17.40 pm to 19.30pm  
RLWY 414

**Course Objectives**

The course's objective is to prepare you to understand, adopt, use and manage IT to help your organisation get ahead and stay ahead of the competition.

This course addresses three basic questions about information technology and information systems: what, why and how.

*"What is information technology?"*

This fundamental question is explored first to ensure that all students have a foundation exposure to the subject's technical underpinnings. While you will be introduced to a certain amount of technical information here, in fact the key to fluency in information technology per se is to fully understand a small number of core principles, as opposed to master a mountain of technical details. It is the principles we will focus on in this part of the course.

*"Why should a manager care?"*

Information technology management issues span all business functions. From their genesis as automated accounting systems, information systems now lie at the heart of flexible manufacturing systems, point of sale marketing systems, intra and inter organisational communication systems, Internet based information and business systems and corporate strategies that use information as a source of competitive advantage, to name just a few. Given this range of application, information illiteracy has become a serious handicap for many managers, perhaps comparable to not being able to read a financial statement or to having poor interpersonal skills.

*"How are the benefits of IT developed and delivered?"*

In the process of answering this question we will examine a series of topical issues facing information systems professionals and non IS managers alike. From subcontracting the entire IS function

(“outsourcing”), to international telecommunications, to adopting new technologies,— the aim of the course is to help you appreciate the breadth of challenges and opportunities facing practicing IS managers as well as users of information systems.

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**Learning Outcomes:**

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

1. Understand key terms and concepts of information systems;
2. Outline major current developments in IT;
3. Competently discuss key managerial and organisational issues surrounding IS.

**Course Content**

DATE	TOPIC	REF
Wed 11 July	Introduction to the course/ Hardware	Chapters 1
Wed 18 July	Hardware/Software	Chapter 13
Wed 25 July	Database/Data warehousing	Chapter 14
Wed 1 Aug	Networks	Chapter 15
Wed 8 Aug	Software Development Life Cycle	Chapter 8
Wed 15 Aug	Software Development Life Cycle	Chapter 8
	Mid Trimester Break	
Wed 5 Sept	Business Process Re-engineering	Chapter 19
Wed 12 Sept	Enterprise Resource Planning	Chapter 19
Wed 19 Sept	Choosing technology/outsourcing	Chapter 9
Wed 26 Sept	E-commerce	Chapter 16
Wed 3 Oct	Decision Support Systems/ Artificial Intelligence	Chapter 18
Wed 10 Oct	Digital Divide	Chapter 20

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

**Group Work**

Students will be required to work in pairs to lead seminar discussions. These are worth 10% of course marks and will require eight hours commitment beyond scheduled class time

**Readings**

Textbook: Information Technology: Strategic Decision Making for Managers,  
Henry C. Lucas Jr., 2005, Wiley

Each weekly lecture will be supplemented by a relevant chapter from the textbook, plus a journal article or case study. In order for students to participate in class it is essential that they read these materials in advance. Readings for each week will be announced using the blackboard system.

### **Assessment Requirements**

LEIT Presentation/Report	40%
Case Study	40%
Seminar Leadership	10%
Participation	10%

### **Leading Edge Information Technology (LEIT) Report/ Presentation (40%)**

In negotiation with the lecturer each student will select a key leading edge technology to research. These topics should have a technical orientation. You will investigate the topic and prepare a 3,000 word report aimed at a non technical audience. You will also present your topic to the class. Final presentations should be planned to be 15 minutes long, plus 10 minutes for discussion. More information and guidance regarding the leading edge technology presentations will be provided separately.

**Report Due: 5.40 pm Wednesday 15th August**

**Presentation Due: By arrangement**

### **Case Study (40%)**

Students are required to choose one of the case studies covered in the course, and prepare a 3,000 word written analysis of it. More information will be provided to you concerning what we are looking for in a written analysis.

**Case Study Due: 5.00 pm Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October**

### **Seminar Leadership (10%)**

Each week the class will be given materials to read in order to prepare for the class. Each week two students will take responsibility for leading a class discussion about the selected materials. The students will identify at least three questions raised by the readings, and lead the rest of the group through a discussion of the issues

**Due: By arrangement**

### **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**

### **Penalties**

In keeping with standards of professionalism appropriate to this programme, it is expected that deadlines will be honoured. In fairness to students who complete work on time, work submitted after the due date/ time will incur penalties for lateness. The penalty is up to 5% of the report's grade per day (or part thereof) late. Unusual or unforeseeable circumstances (e.g. serious illness, family bereavement) may lead to a waiver of this penalty but need to be discussed with the paper coordinator as soon as possible.

Word limits should be adhered to, especially so when they provide a guide to limiting the student's coverage of a topic

## **Mandatory Course Requirements**

### **Workloads and Terms Requirements:**

You are strongly encouraged to attend all course sessions, read assigned materials, and contribute to discussions.

*Pass Criteria: To pass the course, you must gain a weighted total of 50% across all assignments.*

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**

Additional information will be communicated to students via the blackboard system

### **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](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.