

# School of Information Management

*Te Kura Tiaki, Whakawhiti Kōrero*

## INFO 401

### FOUNDATIONS OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH

Trimester 1, 2008

#### COURSE OUTLINE

**INSTRUCTOR:** Mary Tate

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*Phone:* 463-5265

*Room:* EA 234

*Office hours:* by appointment

#### CLASS TIMES AND ROOM NUMBERS

**Dates:** 27 February to 28 May

**Times:** Wednesday, 10.00-12:50, and other times as arranged

**Venue:** Room EA 001

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

*This course provides an overview of some of the main streams of research that have contributed to the field of information systems. The course will provide students with the perspective needed to appreciate current and future trends in information systems research. This course also builds skills that will assist students in developing the capability to carry out independent research in the fields of information systems and electronic commerce.*

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

1. Understand some of the core “body of knowledge” in the information systems field.
2. Describe, integrate, and apply to research situations the findings of selected articles in designated thematic areas of Information Systems as listed in the course timetable.
3. Perform a thorough search for relevant Information Systems research in print media, CD-ROM, online databases, and Internet resources.
4. Evaluate academic articles including both research papers and surveys of others' research.
5. Write a concise, logical, and integrated review of academic literature, using appropriate style, language, citation, and referencing.

#### COMMUNICATION of ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Notices relating to this course will be announced in class or distributed via an INFO 401 email distribution list. Please keep the course co-ordinator and BCA (hons) Director informed of any change in your preferred email address. From time to time, some material may be placed on the Blackboard site for the course.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	27 February	<b>THE IS DISCIPLINE</b> <i>Course details</i> <i>In class review exercise: The IS Discipline</i> <i>In class review exercise: Writing summaries &amp; critiques of academic articles</i>
2	5 March	<b>INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH (AND BUSINESS NEEDS)</b> <i>In-class review exercise: Writing a literature review: Synthesis not summary.</i> Article critiques
3	12 March	<b>RIGOR, RELEVANCE, AND CONSUMABLE RESEARCH</b> <i>In class review exercise: Library searching - finding relevant articles for a literature review.</i> Article critiques
4	19 March	<b>RESEARCH FRAMEWORKS IN IS</b> <i>In class review exercise: Writing</i> Article critiques
5	26 March	<b>No class following Easter break</b>
6	2 April	<b>IS SUCCESS</b> DUE Wednesday 2 April, in class: <i>Ann. Bibliography, 10%</i> DUE Wednesday 2 April, in class: <i>Lit. Review Outline, 5%</i> <i>In class review exercise: Literature Review Outline Poster Session</i> Article critiques
7	9 April	<b>TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTANCE</b> <i>In class exercise: Citing and Referencing your sources: APA format</i> Article critiques
<b>Mid-Term Break</b>		
8	30 April	<b>INFORMATION</b> Article critiques
9	7 May	<b>TASK TECHNOLOGY FIT</b> Article critiques
10	14 May	<b>USER SATISFACTION</b> Article critiques
11	21 May	<b>THE IS DISCIPLINE REPRISED</b> Entering the discourse: THE RESEARCH PROJECT AND ITS PUBLICATION DUE Friday 23 May, 5:00 pm, by e-mail: <i>Literature Review</i> Article critiques
12	28 May	<b>END TERM TEST: 30% (in class)</b>

Although we intend to follow the schedule as closely as possible, variations may be necessary.

#### Overview

In the first half of the course, some time will be devoted to building practical skills in synthesizing literature, academic writing, and correct referencing. Students are expected to carry out a practical exercise in preparation for each class and will review the exercise in pairs or groups at the start of each session. These exercises are aimed at developing the independent research skills that you will need later in the program. Following that, we will do academic article reviews and discussion presented and led by students. The second half of the course will focus more strongly on reviewing

articles and topics that are seminal to the development of the IS discipline, and discussion of the issues and themes raised by these articles.

Each week a sample question will be provided. Questions in the final test will be similar to these weekly questions.

You are expected, as a minimum, to be thoroughly familiar with ALL the essential course readings, and to come to class ready to discuss topics related to these readings, regardless of whether they have been presented in class. The supplementary material on the CD is provided as a resource for your use.

### Course Materials

An essential set of readings is available from student notes. Supplementary materials will be provided on a CD-ROM.

### ASSESSMENT:

Course assessment will be based on:

		<b>Due Date</b>	
<b>Article Reviews &amp; Seminar Leadership</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>Weds, as assigned</b>	<b>8.00 am*</b>
<b>Annotated Bibliography</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>Weds 2 April</b>	<b>in class</b>
<b>Literature Review Outline</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>Weds, 2 April</b>	<b>in class</b>
<b>Literature Review</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>Fri, 23 May</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>
<b>End Term Test</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>Weds, 28 May</b>	<b>in class</b>

\* Article reviews and associated PowerPoint presentation slides are due via email by 8.00 am on the day of presentation. It is expected that you will send them by email on the previous evening (or earlier).

Overall grade will be calculated as above, OR will be calculated based on the Literature Review, End Term Test, and Article Reviews and Seminar Leadership, whichever is greater.

**Article Reviews:** Each week designated students will lead class discussion of assigned articles. This involves summarising and briefly critiquing the article in light of related literature and leading a class discussion of the article. In addition, a written summary and critique, together with slides for a PowerPoint presentation, must be provided to the lecturer by 8.00 am on the day of the presentation. Details will be provided in a separate document and discussed in the first session. No extensions can be granted on this assessment item.

*Testing Objective 1, 2 and 4.*

**Annotated Bibliography:** You will make an extensive search of the literature through online databases and other library resources to identify 14-18 good articles relevant to your Literature Review topic and prepare an annotated bibliography. This is a list of citations to research journal articles or research-informed chapters in edited books. Each citation is followed by a brief (150-200 word) descriptive paragraph (the annotation). The purpose of the annotation is to inform the compiler and reader of the main ideas, findings, relevance, and contribution of each article.

*Testing Objectives 2, 3 and 5.*

**Literature Review Outline:** A detailed outline of the proposed literature review, including headings and subheadings with a 4-10 line summary or bulleted list under each heading clearly indicating the intended content of each section or sub-section. For each section, include a list of possible citations (where possible). The objective of the outline is to demonstrate comprehensiveness and logical flow of ideas and to obtain feedback. In addition, you must supply a “poster” summary of your outline. This is an A4 (or larger) diagram that shows the outline of the argument structure you are proposing for your literature review.

*Testing Objectives 2,3,4 and 5*

**Literature Review:** An introduction to a proposed (INFO 408) research project, and a comprehensive literature review. You will make an extensive search of academic literature through online databases and other library resources. Limited searching of the Internet may be undertaken but is not expected. Details will be provided in a separate document and discussed in the second class session.

*Testing Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.*

**End-Term Test:** This test assesses your understanding of and ability to integrate all course material. It will be held during normal class time on Wednesday, 31 May 2004. The test will be held in a computer lab, with use of computers recommended but not compulsory. You may bring to this test three A4 sheets of paper with the knowledge of your choice written on each side (total 6 sides). The knowledge summary must be in your own handwriting (or typescript) and no photocopies will be permitted. Further details will be advised in class closer to the date.

*Testing Objectives 1,2, 4 and 5*

**Late Submission:** Late Article Reviews and the Test scripts will NOT be accepted. All other assessments submitted after the deadline will incur a 5% penalty (of the mark obtained) for each day late up to seven days, but will not be accepted after seven days lateness. In the event of bereavement or prolonged illness affecting your ability to meet deadlines, discuss your situation with the Course Coordinator. You must substantiate your claim with appropriate documentation, for example, a medical certificate.

### **WORKLOADS AND MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

You are required 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 and six to eight hours preparing for class. Additional time will be required for completion of course assignments.

**Attendance:** On-time attendance is mandatory. Do NOT miss class. Do NOT be late.

**Mandatory Requirements:** To pass the course, you must gain a minimum of 40% on both the literature review and the end-term test. To obtain a fair distribution of marks relative to assignment difficulty, scaling of marks may be employed on some or all assessments.

## **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 on the ground floor (EA005). This counter is the first point of contact for :

- 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**

(All courses which make use of Turnitin must inform students prior to collection of work for assessment. The following paragraph (modified as necessary for particular circumstances) should appear in course outlines.)

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 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.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy/students.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy/students.aspx)

For information on the following topics, go to the Faculty's website [www.victoria.ac.nz/fca](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fca) under Important Information for Students:

- Academic Grievances

- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

### **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 students 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 penalized 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:

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html)

### **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 6015. 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.