

Victoria Management School

MMBA 507 INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR MANAGEMENT

Trimester 1 2008

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

Course Coordinator:	Name	Dr Brian M Harmer	
	Room	EA 228	
	Tel	463 5887	Email: brian.harmer@vuw.ac.nz
	Fax	463 5446	
		Preferred contact method is email, and every effort will be made to respond within one working day. Face to face meetings by appointment but not on Mondays. Because I am normally based at Kelburn, I suggest that Wednesday afternoons be reserved for appointments at Rutherford House.	
Senior Administrator	Name	Charlotte Deans	
	Room	RH 1004	
	Tel	463 5367	Email: charlotte.deans@vuw.ac.nz

Class Times and Room Numbers

Dates: 27 February to 28 May 2008

Times: Wednesday, 7.40–9.30 pm

Venue: RH LT3 (Lecture Theatre 3, Rutherford House)

Exam: The final examination for this course will be held at a date to be advised during the Trimester 1 examination period 6 – 25 June 2008.

Programme and Course-related Learning Objectives

This course will provide students opportunity:

- to develop oral, written and IS-related communication skills
 - through active participation in class discussion
 - through the development and presentation of oral and written reports, using narrative and diagrammatic and other schema as forms of presentation
 - through formal and informal classroom debate
- to develop critical and creative thinking skills
 - through exercises and assignments requiring analysis, evaluation, interpretation and synthesis
 - through debate and classroom discussion
- to develop leadership skills
 - through structuring independent study
 - through leading projects and group exercises
 - through fulfilling spokesperson duties, reporting on a group's activities or ideas to a class

Course Objectives

On satisfactory completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify and discuss the nature and importance of Information Systems (IS) for business organizations;
2. Identify and discuss key managerial, organisational, and social issues arising as a consequence of IS selection, implementation and use;
3. Understand and describe the roles of various participants in the successful adoption and implementation and ongoing management of IS in organizational contexts;
4. Discuss in depth, the processes by which Information Systems may be successfully deployed in organizations

Course Content

In this course we will examine the critical role that Information Systems (IS) play in modern organisations. We will explore the basic concepts, technologies and issues in Information Systems to try to put you in a better position to evaluate possible future Information Systems developments. We will give you the background and confidence to interact competently with IT specialists and to appreciate the potential and actual role of IT in your organisation.

Week	Topic	Text Chapters	Assessment Due	Tasks
27 February	Welcome to the Course/Introduction	Introduction, 1	SPA1	
5 March	Strategic Use Of Information Resources	2	SPA2	
12 March	Organizational Impacts of IS use	3	SPA3	
19 March	IS And The Design Of Work	4	SPA4	
26 March	IS Management Frameworks		SPA5	
02 April	IS and the Changing Business Processes	5	SPA6	First written assignment.
09 April	Architecture and Infrastructure	6	SPA7	
Mid Trimester Break				
30 April	Doing Business on the Internet	7	SPA8	
7 May	The Mobile Revolution		SPA9	
13 May	The MIS Organization	9	SPA10	
20 May	Funding IT	10	SPA11	
27 May	Knowledge Management	12	SPA12	Management Report
6 – 25 June				Final examination

Expected Workload

Student workload of 150 hours for this course is broken down as follows:

Activity	Weekly	Total
Seminars	2.0	24.0
Reading (incl. exam prep)	6.0	72.0
Written Assessment tasks	As required	51.0
Final Examination		3.0
		150.0

We take for granted that you are busy at work (as are we all) and perhaps even with other courses. Commitments external to this course cannot be taken into account as reasons for work not done, or as excuses for assignment extensions.

Group Work

There are no specific group assessment tasks in this course, though you will be asked to discuss things in groups during seminars. All assessment tasks must be your own work.

Required Text:

Pearlson, K. E. & Saunders, C.S. (2006). *Managing and Using Information Systems: A Strategic Approach*. 3rd Edition. New York, Wiley. ISBN 978-0-471-71538-2

Other Required Readings:

There will be at least two journal articles per week, specified on the Blackboard resource for this course. They will be identified under the “course resources” tab one week prior to the week in which they are to be discussed, and unless otherwise stated, will be accessible from Proquest.

Printing these articles is the responsibility of individual students. You WILL be asked to discuss these articles in class, so please make sure you have read and understood each article before the class. Skim reading them in the minutes prior to class will not cut it.

The university main library is located on the Kelburn Campus with the Commerce library on the Pipitea Campus - Railway Station West Wing. You should also find the online databases useful, particularly PROQUEST and EMERALD. The library provides training on searching online databases. You should also make judicious use of quality Internet resources.

Materials and Equipment

Access to an internet capable computer and the World Wide Web is essential for this course. Printing of material found is the responsibility of each student.

Assessment Requirements

1. Session Preparation Assignments (SPAs) – your written analysis of key points from the assigned readings for each session (12% of total grade for the total submissions).
2. Written Academic Assignment (2,000 words - 15% of total grade). *Due Wednesday 2 April 2008.*
3. Management Report (2,000 words – 15% of total grade) on the state of Information Systems Governance in an organization with which you are familiar. *Due May 27, 2008.*
4. Seminar participation – (8% of total grade based on course coordinator’s observations of the level of *informed* participation).
5. Final Examination (50% of total grade) 6 – 25 June 2008.

Penalties

In fairness to other students, work submitted after the deadline will be subject to a penalty of 5% of the total marks available per day of lateness. Assignments more than one week late will not be accepted. A “zero” mark will be applied. In the event of unusual, unforeseen circumstances (e.g., serious illness, family bereavement), students should discuss waiver of the penalty with the course controller ***prior*** to the deadline date.

Word limits will not be used unless the submitted assignments are excessively over or under the specified range.

Victoria MBA Grading Standards are as follows:

Excellent Category

A- (75 – 79%) to A (80 – 84%) to A+ (85% and above): The learning is demonstrated to a very high level of proficiency, i.e. it is at a standard that makes it exceptional at Master's level.

Very Good Category

B+ (70 – 74%): The learning is demonstrated at a high standard. Students have reached a level that clearly exceeds “competency”.

Good Category

B (65 – 69%): The learning is clearly demonstrated without being exceptional in any way. Students can be thought of as fully competent.

Satisfactory Category

B- (60 – 64%): The learning is demonstrated without being exceptional in any way. Students can be thought of as competent.

Marginal Category

C (50 – 54%) to C+ (55 – 59%): The learning is demonstrated to a minimally acceptable level. There may be flaws but these are not serious enough to “fail” the student.

Unsatisfactory / Failure Category

E (0 – 39%) to D (40 – 49%): The learning is absent or performed to a very low level, or the performance is seriously flawed.

Mandatory Course Requirements

To meet Mandatory Course Requirements, students are required to:

- Submit an honest attempt for every assessment task (no more than three of the 12 SPAs may be missed) and;
- Get at least 40% of the available marks for the final examination.

Communication of Additional Information

Notices and session specific resources will be advised via Blackboard. Occasionally, it may be necessary to send emails to the class. Blackboard is set up to address your VUW student email address by default. If you prefer to receive emails on some other address, please ensure that your student email account is set up to forward emails to your preferred address.

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 :

- 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.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 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

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 6015. To contact the Pacific Support Coordinator, email pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 5842.