

School of Information Management

INFO 402 CURRENT ISSUES IN IS RESEARCH

Trimester Two 2008

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator Beverley Hope
Room: EA 229
Phone: 463 5528
Email: beverley.hope@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Thursdays, 10:00a-1:00p and 3:00-4:30 pm

Trimester Dates

Teaching commences on Monday 7 July and concludes on Friday 10 October 2008
(mid trimester break 18-31 August).

Class Times and Room Numbers

Seminars held Friday 11.00am-1.50pm in EA 004

Course Objectives

1. Appropriately critique academic articles including research papers, research reviews, position papers, tutorials, and practitioner-focussed articles. (Assessments a, b, c, d)
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 schedule. (Assessments a, b, d)
3. Identify, describe, and analyse emerging themes and theories in information systems and apply them to academic or practitioner situations, problems, or questions. (Assessments a, b, d)

Course Content

Building on INFO 401, this course will make a critical examination of recent literature in the domain of strategic, managerial and organisational aspects of information systems research. Students are assessed both on their knowledge of the field covered in the course and their general knowledge of information systems research literature.

Each week the class will be structured along the following lines:

11:00-11:10 Orientation
11:10-11:50 Article 1 critique and questions
11:50-12:30 Article 2 critique and questions
12:30-12:45 Break
12:45-13:25 Article 3 critique and questions
13:25-13:50 Orientation to next week's class.

Topic Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	
1	11 July	Rigor, Relevance, Writing, and Reviewing	Mary Tate
2	18 July	Reviewing for Publication	Sid Huff
3	25 July	Services Science – the new discipline?	Beverley Hope
4	01 Aug	Knowledge Management	David Pauleen
5	08 Aug	Social Networking	Janet Toland
6	15 Aug	Global Information Systems and E-Commerce -- Assessment: Article Reviews Due --	Tony Hooper
Break			
7	05 Sept	Delivering Online Service Quality	Mary Tate & Beverley
8	12 Sept	Managing IT and the IT function in organisations	Brian Harmer (Beverley)
9	19 Sept	Strategic Alignment between IS and Marketing (or tba) -- Assessment: Editorial Reviews Due --	Val Hooper
10	26 Sept	Process Reengineering	William Yu Chung Wang
11	03 Oct	Health Information Systems	Rowena Cullen
12	10 Oct	<i>Assessment: End Term Test</i>	

Expected Workload

For each week of class, expect to spend three hours in class and 6-8 hours reading and preparing for class. Additional time will be required for preparing assignments.

Readings

A set of readings will be placed on Blackboard. There is no set text for this course.

Materials and Equipment

You will make use of the Library print and electronic media and limited use of the Internet.

Assessment	%
(a) Article critique and seminar leadership (2)	30
(b) Seminar participation	10
(c) Article review and editing assignment	30
(d) End term test	30

(a) Article critique and seminar leadership

Each week, designated students will present a review and detailed critique of designated articles related to the topic of the week (1000-1500 words). The designated students will also lead a 40 minute discussion of the paper.

Typed Critique Due: 8.00 am on the day of the presentation. Objectives: 1, 2, 3

(b) Seminar participation

You are expected to attend every class, to read the assigned readings before class for each week, and to come prepared to contribute to class discussion. Participation will be noted with an emphasis on quality, not quantity or frequency. While we prefer volunteers, you may be cold called at any time. We highly value unique perspectives, inter-relating of perspectives, or synthesizing things learned from the discussion. Timely and useful quotations or questions can also be an effective contribution. Presenting information beyond that contained in the readings is also highly valued. Chip shots – “I agree” add little to the discussion and are not highly valued.

Due: ongoing Objectives: 1, 2, 3

(c) Article Review and Editing Assignment

This assignment simulates 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 track chair.

Due: Article Review 8 August. Editors Report 5 September Objective: 1

(d) End Test

A three hour open book test consisting of mini-essay type questions which will cover the material of the course. To succeed the student must demonstrate he ability to reflect on, synthesize, and critically evaluate the readings covered in the courses.

Due: 10 October Objectives 1, 2, 3

Late Penalties

In fairness to other students, work submitted after a deadline, will incur a penalty of 10% for each day or part-day it is overdue. In the event of bereavement or prolonged illness affecting our ability to meet a deadline, discuss your situation with the Course Coordinator. 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 Coordinator. Extensions will be granted only under these conditions.

Mandatory Course Requirements

It is expected that Honours students will attend all classes and inform the course coordinator if for some reason they cannot attend. An attendance register will be kept.

To pass the course, you must gain a minimum of 40% on each 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 assessment.

Communication of Additional Information

Any additional information or changes will be communicated in class or emailed to students.

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.

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: including the work of others will not be considered plagiarism as long as the work 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 penalised 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*](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.