TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

School of Information Management

MMIM552 RESEARCH METHODS

Trimester 2 2008

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Paper Coordinator:	David Mason
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Programme Administrator:	Tiso Ross
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Trimester Dates: Monday 7th July to Saturday 8th Nov 08.

Class Times and Room Numbers

Lectures:	*Tuesday evenings, commencing 08 July 2008*
	One two-hour class each week
Times:	5:40 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Venue:	RWW 125

Course Content

On completion of this course the student will be able to

- Create a research proposal for a personal research project.
- Create a Human Ethics Committee application
- Design a questionnaire to support or refute a hypothesis.
- Use SPSS to create data sets and produce descriptive, parametric and non-parametric statistical analyses.
- Select quantitative research techniques for appropriate situations.
- Select qualitative research techniques for appropriate situations.

The lectures will be a combination of theory and practice, informal and interactive, more of a continuous workshop aimed at helping students develop their research skills. Some of the instruction will be hands-on in the computer labs.

Outside of class time, students will be required to

a) participate in the specification of a questionnaire.

b) get ten people to complete the online questionnaire.

c) interview three people about their views on work/life balance.

Human Ethics Committee approval has been granted for this work.

The assessment consists of using the data from the questionnaire and the interviews to produce a report on Work/Life Balance based on statistical and qualitative analysis.

Learning Schedule

	Day	*Content Lecture*
Week1	08 Jul 08	Outline of the research project. Introduction to research methods
Week 2	15 Jul 08	Designing a questionnaire. Repertory grid analysis.
Week 3	22 Jul 08	Elementary Statistical analysis
Week 4	29 Jul 08	Correlation & Regression
Week 5	05 Aug 08	Analysis of variance. ANOVA
Week 6	12 Aug 08	Factor analysis.
		Mid Trimester Break
Week 7	02 Sep 08	Overview of Qualitative methods
Week 8	09 Sep 08	Grounded Theory, Content analysis.
Week 9	16 Sep 08	Interviewing and observation
Week 10	23 Sep 08	Focus Groups
Week 11	30 Sep 08	Project Proposal: Preparation and presentation
Week 12	07 Oct 08	Research Report

This schedule is subject to change.

Course Objectives

The paper will prepare students to undertake independent research in Information Systems. Students will be able to produce a viable research proposal ready for independent study. Students will learn how to plan a research project, design a research question, collect data,

enter that data, analyse it and report the results. Students will learn to use qualitative and quantitative techniques to produce a publishable output.

Workloads and Terms

This course is worth 15 points, which equates to 150 hours of study.
Lectures   2 hours per week
Private study and preparation   6 – 8 hours weekly throughout the trimester

Readings

Field, Andy. 2006. *Discovering statistics using SPSS for Windows*. London: Sage 0-7619-5755-3

Readings for the qualitative part of the course will be supplied.

Assessment Requirements

Assessment	Due date	Weighting
First Assignment	05 Aug 08	30%
Second Assignment	02 Sep 08	15%
Third Assignment	23 Sep 08	15%
Research Report	14 Oct 08	40%

First Assignment
Graphical analysis   10%
Correlation analysis 10%
Regression analysis 10%

Second Assignment (15%)
Factor Analysis 15%

Third Assignment (15%)
Content Analysis 15%

Research Report (40%)

All assignments are based on the survey and interview data collected. Details of each assignment will be given out in class.

Penalties
Assignments handed in late will incur a one mark penalty for each day late.

Mandatory Course Requirements
Students will be required to get ten people to complete the online questionnaire.
Students will be required to interview three people about their views on work/life balance.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information will be notified to students via email. General information is available on the MMIM552 Blackboard site.

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