



FACULTY OF COMMERCE AND ADMINISTRATION  
STUDENT AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

**Course Outline Approval Form**

(Please complete one of these forms for each course)

Course Code (not CRN)	<u>INFO 401</u>	Trimester taught	<u>1</u>
Course Title	<u>foundations of information systems research</u>		
Course Coordinator Name (please print)	<u>Mary Tate</u>		
Scrutineer Name (please print)	<u>Beverley Hope</u>		

We confirm that the Outline for the above course meets Faculty and University requirements as set out in the Course Outline Template, and as described in detail in the Assessment Handbook 2006, Section 3 *Course Outlines*.

Please note in particular paragraph 3.4 of the 2006 Assessment Handbook, that each course outline must be carefully checked and signed off as correct by another academic staff member (the scrutineer).

Please ensure that this completed form is sent, duly signed, to Anthea O'Sullivan, Room RWW111, by Friday 6 March 2009 for First Trimester courses.

Signed.....	<u>M. Tate</u>	.....	<u>BG. Hope</u>
	(Course Coordinator)		(Scrutineer)
Date.....	<u>25 Feb 2009</u>	.....	<u>25/02/09</u>



**School of Information Management**

*Te Kura Tiaki, Whakawhiti Kōrero*

**INFO 401**

**FOUNDATIONS OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH**

Trimester One 2009

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Names and Contact Details**

*Course co-ordinator:* Mary Tate

*Email:* mary.tate@vuw.ac.nz

*Phone:* 463-5265

*Room:* EA 234

*Office hours:* by appointment

**Trimester Dates including examination period**

Monday 2 March to Wednesday 1 July

**Class Times and Room Numbers**

*Dates:* 4 March to 3 June

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

*Venue:* Room EA 001

**Withdrawal dates:**

Information available via

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

**Communication of Additional Information**

Supplementary materials may be provided from time to time by the course co-ordinator. Communication of additional information may be made via email, announcements in class, or via Blackboard.

## Course Content

Week	Date	Topic
1	4 March	<b>THE IS DISCIPLINE</b> <i>Course details</i> <i>In class exercise: The IS Discipline</i> <i>In class exercise: Writing summaries &amp; critiques of academic articles</i>
2	11 March	<b>INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH (AND BUSINESS NEEDS)</b> <i>Skill building: Writing a literature review: Synthesis not summary.</i> <b>Article critiques, presentations and seminar leadership</b>
3	18 March	<b>RIGOR, RELEVANCE, AND CONSUMABLE RESEARCH</b> <i>Skill building: Writing</i> <b>Article critiques, presentations and seminar leadership</b>
4	25 March	<b>RESEARCH FRAMEWORKS IN IS</b> <i>Skill building: Literature Review Outline Poster</i> <b>Article critiques, presentations and seminar leadership</b>
5	1 April	<b>IS SUCCESS</b> <i>Skill building: Citing and Referencing your sources: APA format</i> <b>Article critiques, presentations and seminar leadership</b>
6	8 April	<b>TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTANCE</b> DUE Wednesday 8 April, in class: <i>Ann. Bibliography</i> , 10% DUE Wednesday 8 April, in class: <i>Lit. Review Outline</i> , 5% <b>Article critiques, presentations and seminar leadership</b>
<b>Mid-Term Break: 13-24 April</b>		
7	29 April	<b>INFORMATION</b> <b>Article critiques, presentations and seminar leadership</b>
8	6 May	<b>TASK TECHNOLOGY FIT</b> <b>Article critiques, presentations and seminar leadership</b>
9	13 May	<b>INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT</b> <b>Article critiques, presentations and seminar leadership</b>
10	20 May	<b>USER SATISFACTION</b> <b>Article critiques, presentations and seminar leadership</b>
11	27 May	<b>THE IS DISCIPLINE REPRISED</b> <i>Skill building: preparing for publication</i> DUE Friday 29 May, 5:00 pm, by e-mail: <i>Literature Review</i> <b>Article critiques, presentations and seminar leadership</b>
12	3 June	<b>END TERM TEST: 30% (in class)</b>

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

### Course 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.

### Course Learning 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 should 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.

### Expected Workload and Mandatory 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.

### Readings and Course Materials

An essential set of readings is available from student notes. Additional materials are available on the Blackboard site.

### Assessment Requirements

#### Overview

Course assessment will be based on:	Due Date	
<i>Article Review &amp; presentation</i>	10%	Tues, as assigned 5.00 pm(day prior)*
<i>Seminar Leadership</i>	10%	Tues, as assigned 5.00pm(day prior)*
<i>Annotated Bibliography</i>	10%	Weds 8 April in class
<i>Literature Review Outline</i>	5%	Weds, 8 April in class
<i>Literature Review</i>	35%	Fri, 27 May 5:00 pm
<i>End Term Test</i>	30%	Weds, 3 June in class

\* Article reviews, PowerPoint presentation slides, and Seminar leadership Questions are due via email by 5.00 pm on the day before class.

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 and Presentations (10%):* Each week designated students present the key points of assigned articles to the class and offer a brief critique. This involves summarising and briefly critiquing the article in light of related literature and fielding questions. In addition, a written summary and critique, together with slides for a PowerPoint presentation, must be provided to

the lecturer by 5:00 pm on the day before 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.*

**Seminar Leadership (10%):** Each week designated students will lead small group discussion about the assigned articles. This involves preparing an interesting question about each of the papers, and preparing your own views on a possible answer, supported by evidence from the reading itself, or other academic or practitioner sources. The seminar leader is expected to facilitate a small group discussion and to provide feedback to the class on the findings of the group. A written version of the questions and the answers must be provided to the lecturer by 5:00 pm on the day before the class at which they are to be discussed. Each "answer" should be no more than 500 words (and may be less). Note: Instead of a question, you may prepare and lead a group activity or exercise, and explain how it will illustrate key points from the article.

**Annotated Bibliography (10%):** 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 (5%):** 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 (35%):** 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 (30%):** 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 1) your set of course readings from student notes and 2) 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.

### **Penalties**

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.

### **Mandatory Course 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.

### **Use of Turnitin**

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 mis-referencing, 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.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: 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](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.