TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

School of Information Management

INFO 402 CURRENT ISSUES IN IS RESEARCH

Trimester Two 2009

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator   Beverley Hope
Room: EA 229
Phone: 463 5528
Email: beverley.hope@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Mondays, 10:00-11.0 am, or by appointment.

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 13 July to Friday 16 October 2009
Withdrawal dates: see http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawlsrefunds.aspx

Class Times and Room Numbers

Seminars held Wednesday 10.00 am-12:30 pm in MY401

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.

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 Delivery

Weekly 3-hour sessions will operate as seminars involving student-led discussion of assigned
articles. As this is an honours course, it is expected that all students will attend every session
and all will come prepared to participate. If unavoidable factors prevent attendance the
student will phone or email the course coordinator preferably before 9.00 am on the day of the
seminar.

Expected Workload

For each week of class, expect to spend three hours in class and 8-9 hours reading and preparing for class. Additional time will be required for preparing assignments.

Readings

Articles for reading and discussion will be placed on Blackboard. There is no set textbook for this class.

Materials and Equipment: No special materials are required.

Assessment   %

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

(a) Article and seminar leadership

Each week, designated students will present a review and short critique of designated articles related to the topic of the week (1000-1500 words). The designated students will also lead a 30-40 minute discussion of the paper.
Typed Critique Due by email: 8.00 am on the day of the presentation.   Objectives: 1, 2, 3

(b) Seminar participation

Class members must attend every class, read assigned readings before class, and come prepared to contribute to discussion. Participation will be noted with an emphasis on quality, not quantity or frequency. Volunteering is preferred, but, you may be cold called at any time. Unique perspectives, inter-relating of perspectives, or synthesis of the discussion are valued. Timely and useful quotations or questions can also be an effective contribution. Presenting relevant information beyond the readings is also highly valued. Unsubstantiated 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 19 August.   Editors Report 23 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 the ability to reflect on, synthesize, and critically evaluate the readings covered in the courses.
Due: 14 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 your 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.

Communication of Additional Information

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

For the following important information follow the links provided:

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx

General University Policies and Statutes
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy/academic.aspx

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fca/studenthelp/Contactus.aspx

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/mentoring/

Topic Schedule (*tentative*)

Week	Date	Topic	
1	15 July	Rigor, Relevance, Writing, and Reviewing	Jocelyn Cranfield
2	22 July	Reviewing for Publication	Sid Huff, Hartmut Hoehle
3	29 July	Channel selection/Channel Support	Allan Sylvester
4	05 Aug	Agile Programming	Diane Strode
5	12 Aug	Green Computing	Janet Toland
6	19 Aug	Process Reengineering	William Yu Chung Wang
		-- Assessment: Article Reviews Due --	
Break			
7	09 Sept	Electronic Government	Miriam Lips
8	16 Sept	Managing the IT Function (or similar)	Brian Harmer
9	23 Sept	Services Science – is it a discipline	Beverley Hope
		-- Assessment: Editorial Reviews Due --	
10	30 Sept	Alignment between IT and Marketing	Val Hooper
11	07 Oct	Health Information Systems	Rowena Cullen
12	14 Oct	*Assessment: End Term Test*	

Because we are reliant on others to provide readings and present introductions to topics, some intended topics may change dates or emphasis. These will be advised in class and on Blackboard.