

School of Information Management

INFO 408 RESEARCH PROJECT IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Trimester Two 2009

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course co-ordinator: Mary Tate

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Room: EA 234

Office hours: by appointment

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 13 July to Friday 16 October 2009

End of Year Study Period: Monday 19 October to Monday 26 October 2009

Examination period Monday 19 October to Sunday 15 November

Withdrawal dates: Information available via

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

Class Times and Room Numbers

This course does not have regular classes. However class sessions may be scheduled from time to time. Students enrolled in this course, or participating in it in fulfilment of their commitment to other courses are required may be required to attend workshops or presentations at times to be finalised. Students will present project proposals and end-of-project reports to SIM supervisory staff, faculty and to their classmates in sessions to be held at the beginning of the trimester, and near the end of the trimester (exact dates and times to be advised).

Course Content

Individual research project

Course Learning Objectives

This course provides an opportunity for students to complete a research project on an information systems topic and prepares them for entry into the MCA degree or PhD in Information Systems. Students conduct an individual information systems research project under the guidance of a supervisor.

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

1. identify, clarify and investigate a research problem in information systems,

2. locate, analyse, and integrate relevant literature,
3. gather and analyse additional data if appropriate, and present a coherent, well organised argument (written and oral) based on the above.

Course Delivery

This is not a taught course. Guidelines and expectations for supervisors and students are available.

Each student will be supervised by a suitably qualified member of SIM's teaching staff or PhD students. During the second trimester, regular progress meetings of about one hour will be set up by mutual agreement between the student and the supervisor. These should occur not less than every two weeks, nor more often than weekly. Students are expected to provide tangible written evidence of progress according to the timeframe agreed with their supervisor.

Research involving human subjects will almost always require approval of the Human Ethics Committee. See <http://www.sim.vuw.ac.nz/research/#hec> for further guidance. In cases where human subjects are not involved, and ethical clearance thus is not required, students are required to get their supervisor's formal written agreement to this before any data gathering is commenced. Where HEC clearance is required (most cases), students may not commence any data gathering until the clearance has been granted.

Expected Workload

Guidelines for the scope of the research and the number of references required are available. It is expected that this course will require an average of nine to ten hours per week. However, the workload may vary from week to week, and will also vary depending on the characteristics of each individual project.

Readings

There are no set readings. An extensive reading program is required. This is unique to each student and will be agreed between the student and their supervisor. Students are expected to identify research literature relevant to their topic.

Materials and Equipment

There are no specific materials and equipment requirements.

Assessment Requirements

Course assessment will be based on:		Due Date
Project Presentation	10%	Wednesday 28 October 2009
Individual Research Project	90%	Friday 6 November 2009

Each component will be graded by your supervisor and one other member of the SIM academic staff. The research completed project will be assessed on the following factors:

Problem identification

Statement of objectives and/or hypothesis
Identification of boundary of study
Motivation or “hook” for the research

Understanding of the literature

Review of current state of knowledge
Organisation of survey into appropriate themes
Relevance to research objectives
Research model or framework (if relevant)

Research methodology

Explanation of methodology
Appropriate application of methodology
Detailed research design appropriate to the topic

Results

Detailed description of the results achieved

Discussion

Comparison and/or evaluation of results with reference to the insights gained from previous literature
Discussion of the results with regard to the research question – were the results expected or unexpected, and why?

Conclusions/implications

Takes a position on the conclusions and contribution of the research
Implications for practice
Ideas and implications for future research

Presentation

Communication clear and concise
Thesis meets requirements for professional competency
Accurate and complete citation and referencing

Overall Impact

Demonstrates an ability to conduct credible research

Late Submission: You are expected to complete your projects by the specified end date. In exceptional circumstances, an extension may be negotiated between the student, their supervisor, and the course co-ordinator. Documentation (for example) medical certificates, may be required. Penalties may be applied for late submission.

Any special requirements which students must fulfil to pass the course should be listed under mandatory course requirements.

Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and audit purposes. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of FCA programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

Examinations

There is no final exam.

Penalties

Penalties for late submission may be imposed at a rate of 10% per working day for each day late.

Mandatory Course Requirements

To pass the course, you must gain a minimum of 50% in the course assessments.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information will be communicated by email.

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 compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. 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.

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/