TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

School of Information Management
MMIM 502 Managing in the Information Age

Trimester Two 2009

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator:	Name	Dr Val Hooper		
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Programme Co-ordinator:	Name	Tiso Ross		
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Trimester Dates

Monday 13 July to Friday 16 October 2009

Withdrawal dates: Information available via
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawlsrefunds.aspx

Class Times and Room Numbers

Tuesdays 17:40 – 19:30 in RLWW 129

Course Content

Class	Date	Topic	Deliverables
1	14 July	Introduction, and Background to the information age	
2	21 July	Changing nature of organizations and business models	
3	28 July	Virtual organizations	
4	4 Aug.	Managing people	
5	11 Aug.	Leadership	Individual assignment 1 submission
6	18 Aug.	Managing information assets	

7	8 Sept.	Managing technology	Case study analysis submission
8	15 Sept.	Outsourcing	
9	22 Sept.	Strategy and information	
10	29 Sept.	Managing change	Individual assignment 2 submission
11	6 Oct.	Decision making	
12	13 Oct.	Legal and ethical issues	Group project submission

Course Learning Objectives

> What is happening is the rise of an entirely new 'system for wealth creation'
> [Its appearance undermines] every pillar of the old power system, ultimately transforming family life, business, politics, the nation-state, and the structure of global power itself
>
> - Alvin Toffler

Within the last few decades IT and IS have had an enormous impact on organizations and their ability to gain and maintain a competitive advantage. This impact has been most significantly felt at managerial level. Management in organizations is suffused with information resources.

Management is about ensuring the most effective and efficient use of resources in an organization to ensure the sustained existence, growth and competitiveness of that organization. Management is concerned with the optimal use of inputs, transformation and production of outputs, set against a multitude of influential environmental factors. Management is about a portfolio of various activities – planning, leading, organizing, co-ordinating, communicating, controlling and reporting.

It is against this backdrop that we address the challenge of assessing the impact of IT and IS developments on the way in which organizations are, and can be managed, and the way in which organizations, in turn, direct the development of IT and IS. In addition, we examine how IT and IS impact on the other organizational resources and how maximum synergy can be achieved between the various inputs.

By the end of the course students should be able to:
1) identify quality information sources
2) analyse academic material critically and identify the core aspects of such writings
3) communicate the findings of their research in a clear logical and insightful manner

More broadly, they should be able to:
4) demonstrate skills in understanding and analysing the recursive influence of IT / IS and organizations upon one another.

5) appreciate the multiple challenges facing managers in the information age and the way in which IT / IS has, and can, impact on them as well as help address them

6) demonstrate the ability to work together with others towards a common goal

Expected Workload

On average students can expect to spend at least 10 hours per week on their course work preparation. However, given that this is an advanced degree and students might be stimulated to pursue their own exploration of certain topics, this can be variable.

The important thing is to keep up a steady work pace and not fall behind.

Group Work

Students will submit one group project (see Assessment Requirements below). Over and above class time, the group project should not entail more than 10 – 12 hourse in group meeting time.

Readings

There is no textbook for this course. However, the following book provides some interesting and pertinent reading. The relevant chapters will be indicated along with the readings for each week.

Dickson, Gary W. & DeSanctis, Geraldine. *Information technology and the future enterprise: new models for managers*. Prentice-Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, 2001.

Apart from the commerce databases such as Proquest, good journal resources include:

- MIS Quarterly
- Journal of Information Systems Management
- Journal of Strategic Information Systems
- MIS New Zealand
- ComputerWorld (New Zealand)
- ComputerWorld (US)
- Information Strategy: The Executive's Journal
- Harvard Business Review

Assessment Requirements

Assessment will be comprised as follows:

- Class participation   20%
- Individual assignment 1   15%
- Individual assignment 2   15%
- Case study analysis   20%
- Group project
  - Individual component   20%

       o   Group component   10%

There will be no final exam in this course.

A weighted average of the assessment marks will determine whether a student passes the course.

Class participation
(Addresses course objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Students are expected to attend every class. Where absenteeism is unavoidable, the lecturer should be informed in advance as far as possible.

As an important component of the course is the interaction and sharing of ideas and perspectives during the class sessions, participation in the class discussions will be monitored carefully. The emphasis will lie on the quality of contributions rather than on the frequency. Particularly valued will be:

- Effective starting of a discussion
- Injection of a unique perspective into a discussion
- Inter-relating of various perspectives
- Drawing together things learnt during the discussion
- Relating discussions on new topics to those already covered
- Researching and presenting information beyond the confines of the prescribed readings

Each class will contain a critical review of the readings assigned for that session. While everyone is expected to have prepared these readings, individual students will be assigned certain tasks per session:

(a) Some will be required to provide a one-page critical review of a specific reading.

(b) Some will be required to develop three insightful questions pertaining to a specific reading and to lead a short discussion.

(c) Some will be required to source two additional readings, which relate meaningfully to the topic of that session and to provide a one-page critical review of each article.

Copies of the (a) critical reviews (b) questions and (c) additional readings plus critical reviews will be distributed to the class before the relevant lecture. *(These tasks address course objectives 1, 2, 3)*

Individual assignments
(Address course objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

These two individual assignments will be announced at least two weeks in advance. They will be based primarily on secondary research with a strong emphasis on academic rigour.

More details regarding the topics of the assignments will be provided nearer the time. Each assignment should be no more than 2500 words in length.

Case study analysis
(Addresses course objectives 2, 3, 4, 5)

The case study will be distributed at least two weeks in advance.

The analysis should identify the key issues and challenges faced by the managers / decision makers in the case and should present a substantial argument for what they ought to do.

Guidelines for the analysis of case studies will be provided nearer the time. The case study should be no more than 3000 words in length.

Group project
(Addresses course objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

The group project is "the golden thread" which will weave its way through your course. The project will be constructed incrementally as the various lecture topics are dealt with, the completed project being submitted at the end of the course. The final project will be assessed in terms of both a group and an individual component.

Progress will be monitored by means of various mechanisms such as randomly requested feedback to the class.

Specific details will be provided at the introductory class, including the length of the group component. The individual component should be no more than 3000 words in length.

Format of assignments

Assignments must be submitted in hard copy to the Course Coordinator. They should be computer-formatted, 12pt font, 1.5 line spacing, single sided papers, to allow for written comments on the paper. Title page, table of contents, bibliography and appendix material do not count toward the required assignment length. Any academically accepted bibliographic standard may be used, although APA is preferred.

In addition, an electronic version of assignments should be forwarded to the Course Coordinator.

Grading standards

Letter Grade	Number grade	Approx Distribution *	Simple Description	More Complete Description
A+	Over 84	4%	Outstanding	Far exceeds requirements, flawless, creative
A	80-84	10%	Excellent	Polished, original, demonstrating mastery
A-	75-79	14%	Very Good	Some originality, exceeds all requirements
B+	70-74	22%	Good	Exceeds requirements in some respects
B	65-69	26%	Satisfactory	Fulfils requirements in general
B-	60-64	18%	Acceptable	Only minor flaws. Unoriginal

C+	55-59	4%	Pass	Mistakes, recapitulation of course material
C	50-54	2%	Minimum pass	Serious mistakes or deficiencies
D	40-49	1%	Unacceptable	Little understanding, poor performance
E	00-39	1%	Fail	Below the minimum required

* This is the hypothetical percentage of students that would attain the various levels of performance, over several repetitions of the course, under similar conditions. It is recognized that the distribution in a particular course, particularly with small enrolment, may differ markedly from the long-term distribution.

All individual work submitted for assessment should be substantially the student's own, although discussion of developing ideas with other students is encouraged.

Note: 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.

Penalties

In keeping with standards of professionalism appropriate to this programme, it is expected that deadlines will be honoured. In fairness to students who complete work on time, work submitted after the due date/ time will incur penalties for lateness. The penalty is up to 5% of the report's grade per day (or part thereof) late. Unusual or unforeseeable circumstances (e.g. serious illness, family bereavement) may lead to a waiver of this penalty but need to be discussed with the Course Coordinator as soon as possible.

Word limits should be adhered to, especially so when they provide a guide to limiting the student's coverage of a topic.

Mandatory Course Requirements

Students are required to attend at least 75% of the classes in order to pass the course.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information or changes will be conveyed by means of in-class announcements, Blackboard announcements, e-mail, and in urgent cases, telephonically. Please ensure that you check these communication channels regularly and that we have your correct contact details.

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/