

School of Information Management

Te Kura Tiaki, Whakawhiti Kōrero

INFO 401

FOUNDATIONS OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH

Trimester 1, 2010
COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR: Mary Tate

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Room: EA 234

Office hours: by appointment

TRIMESTER ONE DATES

Teaching Period: Monday 1st March – Friday 4th June 2010

Study Period: Monday 7th June – Thursday 10th June 2010

Examination Period: Friday 11th June – Wednesday 30th June 2010 (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Courses:

Information is available from the following sources:

Withdrawal dates: Late withdrawals with Associate Dean (Students) permission
(See Section 8: Withdrawals - from the Personal Courses of Study Statute)

<http://policy.vuw.ac.nz/Amphora!~~policy.vuw.ac.nz~POLICY~000000001743.pdf>

Withdrawal dates: refunds:

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

CLASS TIMES and ROOM NUMBERS

Dates: 5 March to 4 June

Times: Friday 9:00 – 12:00 and other times as arranged (note: no class on Friday 2nd April - Good Friday)

Venue: Room EA 001

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 will 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.

COURSE DELIVERY

This is a face-to-face seminar-style course. We will do academic article reviews and discussion presented and led by students. 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. The supplementary material on Blackboard is provided as a resource for your use.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

Three hours per week in class and another 2 hours per week on average preparing for class. Students can expect to spend a significant amount of time (6 hours per week plus) on self-study and completing assessments.

COURSE READINGS and OTHER MATERIALS

An essential set of readings is available from Student Notes. Supplementary materials will be provided on the course Blackboard site.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS:

Course assessment will be based on:

		Due Date	
Article Reviews & Seminar Leadership	20%	Friday as assigned	8.00 am*
Annotated Bibliography	10%	Friday 23 April	in class
Literature Review Outline	5%	Friday 23 April	in class
Literature Review	35%	Fri, 29 May	5:00 pm
End Term Test	30%	Weds, 4 June	in class

* Article reviews and associated PowerPoint presentation slides are due via email by 8.00 am on the day of presentation. It is expected that you will send them by email on the previous evening (or earlier).

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: Each week designated students will lead class discussion of assigned articles. This involves summarising and briefly critiquing the article in light of related literature and leading a class discussion of the article. In addition, a written summary and critique, together with slides for a PowerPoint presentation, must be posted on Blackboard by 8.00 pm the night 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.

Annotated Bibliography: 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: 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: 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: 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 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. There is no final (formal) examination for this course.

Testing Objectives 1,2, 4 and 5

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: 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:

You are required to attend all course sessions, read assigned materials, and contribute to discussions.

Attendance: On-time attendance is mandatory. Do NOT miss class. Do NOT be late.

Mandatory Requirements: To pass the course, you must gain a minimum of 40% on both the literature review and the end-term test and more than 50% across all course assessments combined. To obtain a fair distribution of marks relative to assignment difficulty, scaling of marks may be employed on some or all assessments.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Notices relating to this course will be announced in class, distributed via an INFO 401 email distribution list, or via Blackboard. Please keep the course co-ordinator and BCA (hons) Director informed of any change in your preferred email address. From time to time, supplementary material may be placed on the Blackboard site for the course.

For the following important information follow the links provided:

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

AVC (Academic) Website: information including: Conduct, Academic Grievances, Students with Impairments, Student Support

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fca/studenthelp/>

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/mentoring/

Week	Date	Topic
1	5 March	THE IS DISCIPLINE <i>Course details</i> <i>In class exercise: The IS Discipline</i> <i>In class exercise: Writing summaries & critiques of academic articles</i>
2	12 March	INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH (AND BUSINESS NEEDS) Article critiques
3	19 March	RIGOR, RELEVANCE, AND CONSUMABLE RESEARCH Article critiques
4	26 March	RESEARCH FRAMEWORKS IN IS <i>Literature Review Outline Poster (in class)</i> Article critiques
5	2 April	No class: Good Friday Holiday
Mid-Term Break: 5 - 16 April		
6	23 April	INFORMATION DUE Friday 23 rd April, in class: <i>Ann. Bibliography, 10%</i> DUE Friday 23 rd April, in class: <i>Lit. Review Outline, 5%</i> Article critiques
7	30 April	IS SUCCESS Article critiques
8	7 May	USER ACCEPTANCE Article critiques
9	14 May	TASK TECHNOLOGY FIT Article critiques
10	21 May	USER SATISFACTION Article critiques
11	28 May	THE IS DISCIPLINE REPRISED DUE Friday 29 May, 5:00 pm, by e-mail: <i>Literature Review</i> Article critiques
12	4 June	END TERM TEST: 30% (in class)

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