

School of Information Management

## MMIM 501 COMMUNICATION AND CRITICAL THINKING IN INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Trimester One, 2010

### COURSE OUTLINE

#### Names and Contact Details

<b>Course Coordinator:</b>	<b>Name</b>	Dr. Brian M Harmer	
	<b>Room</b>	EA 228	
	<b>Tel</b>	463 5887	<b>Email:</b> brian.harmer@vuw.ac.nz
	<b>Fax</b>	463 5446	
		Preferred contact method is email, and every effort will be made to respond within one working day. Face to face meetings by appointment (not on Thursdays or Fridays except in emergency) Dr Harmer will be available for ad hoc meetings on Wednesdays between 2:30 pm and 5 pm in RWW 403.	
<b>Programme Coordinator</b>		Ms Tiso Ross	
	<b>Room</b>	EA 121	
	<b>Tel</b>	463 5309	Email tiso.ross@vuw.ac.nz

#### Trimester Dates

Monday 1 March to Friday 4 June, 2010 (Excl mid-trimester break)

#### Teaching

Wednesdays of term time commencing 3 March, 2010, ending 2 June, 2010

**Period:**

**Mid Trimester (Easter) Break: Friday 2 April through Sunday 18 April, 2010**

#### Withdrawal from Courses:

Information available via

**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:**

### **Class Times and Room Numbers**

Wednesdays, 17:40 to 19:30, RWW 315

### **Course Content**

March 3	Introduction to Theory, Communications, Critical Thinking and Information Management
March 10	Foundational theories of communication.
March 17	Theories of Identity
March 24	Social Network Theory
March 31*	Adaptive Structuration Theory
	Mid Trimester Break
April 21	Communications in organizations
April 28	Communications for persuasion
May 5	Communications in the context of Information Management
May 12	Emerging communication technologies
May 19	Managing communications for organizations
May 26	Summary and conclusion

\* The scheduled session for 31 March needs to be moved to a mutually acceptable date. This will be discussed in class.

### **Course Learning Goals**

LG01: On successful completion of the course, students will have enhanced their ability to use critical and creative thinking. This will be demonstrated through their ability to assess the utility of relevant theoretical concepts to their workplace, to provide creative solutions, and to recommend appropriate implementation strategies.

LG02: On successful completion of the course, students will have developed their communication capability. They will demonstrate this by their ability to convey key information management and information systems concepts concisely in an appropriate written format.

### **Course Delivery**

This course is conducted using the seminar approach. For the purposes of this course, a seminar is defined as

*“a meeting for the purpose of examining some field of academic study, in which all of the participants have done the necessary reading to prepare themselves to participate fully in the discussion, under the leadership of an academic member of staff.”*

There is no place for shyness in a seminar situation, and you **will** be called upon to express your point of view on the matters being discussed, and to put it in the context of what you have read. If you haven't done the preparation, you will let yourselves and other member of the class down. These are not lectures. You are putting the knowledge together for yourselves.

These are **not** lectures, and the learning and teaching process is **not** one in which the course coordinator provides a quantum of knowledge for you to read and remember. It is an interactive process of discovery and making connections based on what you have read, and on what you and your classmates discuss in these sessions. If you miss a class, you miss the chance to make those connections. Any sessions resources provided will be no substitute for classroom learning.

### **Expected Workload**

Participants are expected to attend *all* sessions (2 hours each), and to participate in the class exploration of the assigned readings for each of the twelve seminars. There are two significant written assessment items, one formal presentation, and preparation for all of the assigned readings.

The university typically expects students to spend 150 hours of time for each 15 point course.

For the *average* student in this course, this amounts to approximately eight hours per week of reading and thinking for each paper, over and above time spent in seminars and doing assignment work. If English is not your first language, this could take even longer.

### **Group Work**

There is no assessable group work in this course, though you will be asked to work in groups to discuss and debate various issues in the seminar sessions.

### **Readings**

There is no required text to purchase for this course.

You will be asked to read, and subsequently discuss in class, a considerable number of articles from academic and practitioner journals, almost all of which will be available online. The articles to be read will be identified through the weekly course resources provided on “Blackboard”.

You will need to be able to search effectively using search engines such as Proquest, and Google Scholar.

If, like most students, you choose to print the electronically available articles, this will be at your own cost.

### **Materials and Equipment**

No special materials or equipment are required. It is assumed that all students have extensive access to an Internet connected computer with sufficient time and resources to access all nominated readings. It is also expected that students will check their emails, and the Blackboard resources regularly.

### **Assessment Requirements**

Student learning will be assessed in a variety of ways:

1. Session Preparation Assignments (10 assignments each worth up to 1% of final grade) **due** prior to the commencement of the class the week following its being set.
2. The preparation and presentation of one session in class (10% of final grade) **due** in accordance with the individual dates set and announced on Blackboard in the first week.
3. The Submission of a formal journal article review using the Blackboard Wiki established for the purpose (10% of final grade) **due** in accordance with the individual dates set and announced on Blackboard in the first week.
4. Two written essays, each of approximately 3,000 words (Each worth 30% of final grade). The first is **due** on Friday 24 April, and the second is **due** on Friday 4 June
5. Effective participation in all aspects of the class including discussions during seminars and on the wikis as prescribed. (10% of final grade)

*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.*

### **Examinations**

There is no formal examination in this course

### **Penalties**

Assignments submitted after their due date without prior extension being granted will reduce the possible score by 5% for each day late. Major tasks that are significantly smaller than the specified word limit will have their maximum possible score reduced in proportion to the shortfall. Thus, something that is half the specified size will be eligible for up to 50% of the specified grade. If work is significantly over size, no marks will be given for anything beyond the point at which the word limit is reached.

### **Mandatory Course Requirements**

To pass this course, students must make a good faith attempt to submit every assessment task (unless a medical certificate proves incapacity)

### **Communication of Additional Information**

Most communications will be via email, and Blackboard. Please check often.

Blackboard assumes that it is communicating with class members through their student VUW accounts. If that is not your preferred email, then please go into your VUW account at least once and set it up so as to forward any messages to your preferred email address.

It would help me enormously if all course related emails contained in their subject line the following:

“10.1.MMIM501 <Lastname>, <First name> - <Subject Matter>” Where you make the obvious substitutions. Please retain copies of all emails you send, especially those with assignments attached.

### **Use of Turnitin**

Student work provided for assessment in this course will 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\\_victoria/avcademic/Publications.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcademic/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/](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/mentoring/)