

Victoria Management School

Special Topic
TOUR407 TOURISM ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Trimester One 2010

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Coordinator

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Administrator

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Trimester Dates

Monday 1st March 2010 to Wednesday 30th June 2010

Class Time and Location

Friday 9.30am - 12.20pm RHG01

BTM (Hons)/MTM Programme and Course-related Learning Objectives

Learning Goal #1: Our graduates will possess and apply an advanced understanding of tourism management, be able to undertake and use research, and have a range of transferable skills.

Learning Objectives

Graduates will be able to:

- (a) demonstrate a critical understanding of theoretical and applied aspects of tourism management;
- (b) display an advanced appreciation for concepts and methods that inform the management of tourism organizations, businesses, and resources;
- (c) design and conduct independent research;
- (d) develop skills and knowledge that provide a solid platform for further postgraduate study.

Learning Goal #2: Our graduates will demonstrate application of critical and creative thinking skills to practical and theoretical tourism management problems.

Learning Objectives

Graduates will be able to:

- (a) think conceptually and analytically about tourism and its management;
- (b) synthesize and evaluate a range of tourism management issues;
- (c) access, evaluate and apply a range of information and data sources;
- (d) use innovative thinking and creative skills in the context of the tourism business environment and tourism research.

Learning Goal #3: Our graduates will be effective and confident communicators.

Learning Objective

Graduates will be able to communicate ideas and research findings articulately and effectively in a range of written and oral formats.

Learning Goal #4: By meeting the above learning goals, our graduates will display leadership and be able to assume positions of responsibility in the tourism industry and related sectors.

Learning Objectives

Graduates will be able to:

- (a) engage in effective decision making through their analytical, creative and communications skills and experience;
- (b) demonstrate a mastery of a wide range of tourism management concepts and techniques.

Course Content and Course Objectives

Entrepreneurial thinking and entrepreneurial behaviour are associated with product development and innovation, the development of new services, new processes and accessing new markets. This course explores theoretical and practical issues in entrepreneurship in tourism. The focus is on Small and Medium Tourism Enterprises as the majority of tourism businesses in most New Zealand and overseas destinations fall into this category. Topics include characteristics of entrepreneurship and small businesses in tourism, entrepreneurial behaviour, tourism business networks, innovation and business planning in a tourism context.

The first part of the course examines and discusses the relevant tourism literature, particularly recent journal articles, in order to develop an appreciation of current issues in tourism entrepreneurship. The second part of the course concentrates on practical issues related to strategic management for small and medium sized tourism businesses and their application in a local tourism business case study that forms part of the assessment of the course.

Course Objectives

It is the aim of TOUR407 Tourism Entrepreneurship:

- To explain the nature and relevance of entrepreneurship in tourism
- To explore and critically discuss research on entrepreneurship in tourism
- To develop an appreciation of practical issues and techniques in tourism entrepreneurship through the conduction of a local tourism business case study
- To build effective communication and leadership skills through discussion and an individual presentation

Course-related Student Learning Objectives and Skills

On successful completion of the course, students should be able to

1. explore and critically assess research on tourism entrepreneurship, particularly in relation to small and medium tourism enterprises,
2. discuss and appraise research and techniques that inform entrepreneurship in tourism and related business decision making,
3. evaluate and apply tourism business planning and management techniques, and
4. communicate and argue critical issues in tourism entrepreneurship and tourism business management.

Course Content and Delivery

Week	Date	Topic	Deadlines
1	5 March	Introduction to course and assignments Entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial behaviour	
2	12 March	SMTE characteristics: NZ and international examples	(Presentation essay topic)
3	19 March	Motivations and lifestyle entrepreneurship	
4	26 March	Commercial homes Women in tourism entrepreneurship	
5	2 April	Good Friday, University closed	
Mid-trimester break from 5 April to 16 April 2010			
6	23 April	Entrepreneurship and innovation: the case of New Zealand	Essay due at 9.30 am
7	30 April	Business cooperation and networks	(Presentations)
8	7 May	SMTEs and regional development	(Presentations)
9	14 May	Business environments: scanning and decision-making	
10	21 May	Business planning I: the business plan	
11	28 May	Business planning II: risk management and contingency planning in tourism enterprises	Local business case study due at 9.30am
12	4 June	Business planning III: marketing, franchising and other strategies Assignment feedback, wrap-up and conclusion.	

All classes are delivered in three-hour sessions. Students are expected to undertake preparatory reading each week for class activities and discussion.

Expected Workload

According to the University's Assessment Handbook, students are expected to devote 10 hours per week to a 15-point course. Students are expected to come to class having read any preparatory materials and undertaken any directed preparation. Readings will be distributed during class each week.

Readings

Selected references and readings will be given throughout the course but students are expected to use their own initiative for the assignments.

Assessments and Course Requirements

ASSIGNMENT 1 – Individual Essay (30%) 2,500 – 3,000 words

The purpose of this assignment is to develop and evaluate students' ability to a) identify relevant topics in tourism entrepreneurship and b) to critically discuss one topic of their choosing in the context of the wider tourism and tourism entrepreneurship literature and theory.

Using relevant tourism literature databases, each student is to identify a topic in tourism entrepreneurship that forms the basis for discussion in the essay. In the class session on **Friday 12 March 2010**, students are to briefly (3min) introduce their individual topics, highlight relevant aspects and explain their chosen essay discussion question(s). Once the course coordinator has accepted the chosen topic and questions as appropriate, students can start working on Assignment 1. Students are therefore advised not to start work on the assignment before the class session on 12 March 2010.

Essays should be fully referenced. Credit will be given for choice of a relevant topic in tourism entrepreneurship, coverage of the literature, the depth of the discussion and the appropriateness of interpretation and conclusion.

Deadline: 9.30am, Friday 23 April 2010 – submit to Helen Jiang in RH 927.

ASSIGNMENT 2 – Individual Presentation (20%) 20 min presentation, 10 min moderated discussion

Preparation and presentation of their essay topic provides students with the opportunity to explore and to critically assess a tourism entrepreneurship issue of their choice and to communicate and discuss their ideas and arguments.

The assessment of the presentation will be based on content, communication, (if applicable) visualisation of the content, presentation skills and the moderation of the discussion after the presentation. Students are free to use PowerPoint, posters, handouts and/ or other presentation methods.

Presentations are scheduled for the period **30 April 2010 – 7 May 2010**. Dates will be confirmed once student numbers and topics are known.

ASSIGNMENT 3 – Individual Report: Local Tourism Business Case Study (40%) 3,500 – 4,000 Words

Developing and conducting a tourism business case study will help students to gain insights into practical issues in tourism entrepreneurship. Aggregating and presenting relevant points in the form of a report will assist students in identifying and communicating central matters for tourism businesses.

Each student is to choose a local tourism business, analyse the respective business environment and interview the owner/ operator/ manager in order to gain insights into business planning decisions and to comprehend the rationale behind the business plan. A report that aggregates, discusses and analyses the knowledge gained and that provides a future outlook for the business is to be prepared.

Evaluation of the report will be based on the assessment of the business environment of the chosen tourism business, the discussion of insights into decision-making and business planning and the overall quality of the report in terms of structure, purpose and clarity.

Written consent from the business owner and/ or operator will be required for this assessment. Further details will be announced in the first session on 4 March 2010.

Deadline: 9.30am Friday 28 May 2010 – submit to Helen Jiang in RH 927.

Class participation

Students’ active participation in discussion and class activities is essential to developing critical thinking and communication skills and to acquire leadership experience.

Assessment: **10%** of the final grade

This will cover your preparation for each class (particularly the set readings), contribution to class discussions and debate. You are expected to attend all classes.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Assignment	Title	Weight	Date	Course-related Student Learning Objectives
1	Individual Essay	30%	23 April 2010	1
2	Presentation	20%	30 April or 7 May 2010	4
3	Local business case study: local tourism operator business environment, analysis of business planning, discussion	40%	28 May 2010	3
4	Class participation	10%		2
	TOTAL	100%		

The four pieces of assessment are designed to evaluate your understanding of the key ideas from throughout the course and to assess the skills obtained from it. The assessments each relate to the Course-related Student Learning Objectives.

Handing in Assignments

Students must prepare two copies of each assignment and keep the second copy for their own reference. Students should keep an electronic copy of their work archived in case the original assignment goes missing. Failure to do so will jeopardise any claim by you that your work was submitted in the rare cases where your work goes astray. Please submit your written assignments to Helen Jiang in room RH927.

Mandatory Course Requirements

To fulfil the mandatory course requirements for this paper you must

1. submit all written assignments within 7 days of the due date and
2. carry out your presentation on the agreed date (see Section Penalties (ii) for exceptions).

Students who fail to satisfy the mandatory course requirements for this course but who obtain 50% or more overall, will be awarded a “K” fail grade. Standard fail grades (D or E) will be awarded when the student’s overall course mark falls below the minimum pass mark, whether or not the mandatory course requirements have been satisfied.

Penalties - for Lateness & Excessive Length of Assignments

- (i) In fairness to other students, work submitted after any deadline will incur a penalty for lateness. The Tourism Management Group has implemented a standardised late penalty for all tourism courses. Students who submit late assignments will be penalised at a rate of 5% per day (including weekends). **Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays** will be included when counting the number of days late. Assignments received **more than 7 days after the due date** will not be accepted and the student will **automatically fail the Mandatory Course Requirements**.
- (ii) Extensions will only be granted under special circumstances. Students who wish to apply for an extension must contact the course coordinator before the due date. Students who apply for an extension due to illness **must obtain a medical certificate**. Medical certificates must specify that the student is ‘unfit to study’ or ‘unfit to sit an examination.’ Medical certificates must also indicate the duration of the illness. Please take note: workload pressures and computer problems are not a case for extension. Please submit late assignments to one of the course coordinators.
- (ii) Course Outlines provide a signal to students of forthcoming workload, dates of submission etc, and thus student study plans should take account of course requirements across all courses. Consequently, workload issues related to other courses and employment will not be accepted as reason for dispensation from mandatory requirements or waiver of penalties. **Extensions** to submission deadlines for any assigned work will only be granted in **exceptional circumstances**.
- (iii) Students who are unable to comply with any of the mandatory requirements should make a written application for an extension to the due date for submission of assigned work or for waiver of a penalty, **in advance**, to a course coordinator, providing documentary evidence of the reasons of their circumstances.

All such applications must be made **before** the deadline and be accompanied by documentary evidence, e.g. a medical certificate, or counsellor's report clearly stating the degree of impairment, and the dates the illness or event prevented you from undertaking your academic studies. This can be applied retrospectively.

- (iv) In the event of unusual or unforeseeable circumstances (e.g. serious illness, family bereavement or other exceptional events), that precludes an application in advance, students should make contact with one of the course coordinators as soon as possible, and make application for waiver of a penalty as soon as practicable.
- (v) Word limits should be adhered to, especially so when they provide a guide to limiting the student's coverage of a topic. **The penalty will be 10% of the grade for an assignment which is 10% over the word limit.**

Grading Guidelines

The following broad indicative characterisations of grade will apply in grading assignments and the exam:

A+	excellent performance in all respects at this level
A	excellent performance in almost all respects at this level
A-	excellent performance in many respects at this level
B+	very good, some aspects excellent
B, B-	good but not excellent performance at this level
C+, C	work satisfactory overall but inadequate in some respects
D	poor performance overall, some aspects adequate
E	well below the required standard
K	failure to achieve mandatory course requirements and have achieved at least an average "C" over all the assessment. Note: this is a failing grade.

Policy on Remarking

Students may ask for their written work to be remarked. Course instructors in tourism management put tremendous effort into the grading of student assignments. Students are encouraged to speak with the course coordinator if they believe that their mark is not an accurate reflection of the quality of their work.

Application for remarks must be made within 5 days after the marks are available.

Allow up to 5 days for remarks to be completed.

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.

Referencing

There are many different styles of referencing and the Faculty of Commerce & Administration at VUW has decided to make APA (American Psychological Association) referencing style the common standard across the Faculty. The Commerce and Central Libraries hold the APA Style Guide. You can also access the information from the online VUW library site (<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/library/research/reference/referencingguides.aspx>).

Communication of Additional Information

Information on all course-related matters will be announced in class and posted on the **Blackboard** website at <http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz/>. It will be crucial for you to regularly check Blackboard for messages, announcements and materials.

For the following important information follow the links provided:

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:

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

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>

**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/