

School of Information Management

INFO 402 CURRENT ISSUES IN IS RESEARCH

Trimester Two 2010

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator Beverley Hope
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Office hours: Wednesday afternoons or by appointment.

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 12 July to Friday 15 October 2009

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

Class Times and Room Numbers

Seminars held Wednesday 9.00 am-12:00 pm in EA001

Withdrawal from Courses:

Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before **23 July 2010**

The last date for withdrawal from this course (*assuming it has 12 weeks of lectures, otherwise modify accordingly*) is the three-quarter point of the teaching period, i.e. **Friday 24**

September. After that date, permission to withdraw requires the permission of the Associate Dean (Students) as set out in section 8 of the Personal Courses of Study Statute

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

To apply for permission, fill in the Late Withdrawal form available from either of our Student Customer Service Desks.

Course Content

Building on INFO 401, this course makes a critical examination of recent literature in the domain of strategic, managerial and organisational aspects of information systems research. Students are assessed both on their knowledge of the field covered in the course and their general knowledge of information systems research literature.

Course Objectives

1. Appropriately critique academic articles including research papers, research reviews, position papers, tutorials, and practitioner-focussed articles. (Assessments a, b, c, d)
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 schedule. (Assessments a, b, d)
3. Identify, describe, and analyse emerging themes and theories in information systems and apply them to academic or practitioner situations, problems, or questions. (Assessments a, b, d)

Course Delivery

Weekly 3-hour sessions will operate as seminars involving student-led discussion of assigned articles. As this is an honours course, it is expected that all students will attend every session and all will come prepared to participate. If unavoidable factors prevent attendance the student will phone or email the course coordinator preferably before 8.30 am on the day of the seminar.

Expected Workload

For each week of class, expect to spend three hours in class and 8-9 hours reading and preparing for class. Additional time will be required for preparing assignments.

Readings

Articles for reading and discussion will be provided by experts in each topic field. Usually they are supplied one week ahead of the class and placed on Blackboard at that time. There is no set textbook for this class.

Materials and Equipment: No special materials are required.

Assessment	%
(a) Article summaries and seminar leadership	30
(b) Seminar participation	10
(c) Article review and editing assignment	30
(d) End term test	30

(a) Article and seminar leadership

Each week, designated students will present a written overview of the article (main ideas) including a review which puts the paper into context relative to other papers read within or outside the course (maximum two pages). A short critique is also expected (maximum ½ page). The designated students will also lead a 30-40 minute discussion of the paper. The emphasis in this course is on the ideas, models, content and how the area might be extended. Article critiquing is expected but not emphasized.

Typed Critique Due by email: 7.00 am on the day of the presentation. Objectives: 1, 2, 3

(b) Seminar participation

Class members must attend every class, read assigned readings before class, and come prepared to contribute to discussion. Participation will be noted with an emphasis on quality, not quantity or frequency of contributions. Volunteering is preferred, but, you may be cold called at any time. Unique perspectives, inter-relating of perspectives, or synthesis of the discussion are valued. Timely and useful quotations or questions can also be an effective contribution. Presenting relevant information beyond the readings is also highly valued. Unsubstantiated chip shots – “I agree” add little to the discussion and are not highly valued.

Due: ongoing, as assigned Objectives: 1, 2, 3.

(c) Article review and editing assignment

This assignment simulates (a) the review carried out by a reviewer for a conference or journal, and (b) the editorial process carried out by the journal editor or conference track chair.

Due: Article Review 18 August. Editors Report 22 September Objective: 1

(d) End term test

A three hour open book test consisting of mini-essay type questions which will cover the material of the course. To succeed the student must demonstrate the ability to reflect on, synthesize, and critically evaluate the readings covered in the courses.

Due: 13 October Objectives 1, 2, 3

Late Penalties

In fairness to other students, work submitted after a deadline, will incur a penalty of 10% for each day or part-day it is overdue. In the event of bereavement or prolonged illness affecting your ability to meet a deadline, discuss your situation with the Course Coordinator. You must verify your claim, e.g., produce a medical certificate. In doing so, you consent to your supporting documentation being checked by the Course Coordinator. Extensions will be granted only under these conditions.

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.

Mandatory Course Requirements

It is expected that Honours students will attend all classes and inform the course coordinator if for some reason they cannot attend. An attendance register will be kept.

To pass the course, you must gain a minimum of 40% on each assessment and a weighted average of 50% across all assessments.

Communication of Additional Information

Any additional information or changes will be communicated in class or emailed to students. Key documents will be placed on Blackboard

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>

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/

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Topic Schedule (tentative)

Week	Date	Topic
1	14 July	Rigor, Relevance, Writing, and Reviewing Beverley
2	21 July	Reviewing for Publication Hartmut Hoehle & Beverley
3	28 July	E-Government Miriam Lips
4	4 Aug	Service Delivery Systems for multi-channel firms Allan Sylvester
5	11 Aug	Information Management in the New Era Dan Dorner
6	18 Aug	History of Computing in New Zealand and/or Green IT Janet Toland <i>-- Assessment: Article Reviews Due --</i>
Break		
7	08 Sept	Organizational Change and the Materiality of IT Jean-Gregoire Bernard
8	15 Sept	Social Media Timothy Greig (Tim)
9	22 Sept	Mobile Workers Brian Harmer <i>-- Assessment: Editorial Reviews Due --</i>
10	29 Sept	Alignment between IT and Marketing Val Hooper
11	06 Oct	Health Information Systems Rowena Cullen
12	13 Oct	<i>Assessment: End Term Test</i>

Because we are reliant on others to provide readings and present introductions to topics, some intended topics may change dates or emphasis. These will be advised in class and by email.