VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
Te Whare Wānanga o te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui

School of Information Management

INFO 391 RESEARCH PAPER
IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS

ELCM 391 RESEARCH PAPER
IN ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

Trimester 1, 2 and 3 2010

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

Co-ordinator:	Janet Toland
	EA 109, Easterfield Building, Kelburn Campus
	Tel: 04 463 6861
	E-mail: janet.toland@vuw.ac.nz

Notices: As there is a one-on-one relationship between the student and the supervisor, the two should make arrangements as to how best to remain in regular contact

Course Dates:	Trimester 1	1 March – 6 June 2010
	Trimester 2	12 July – 17 October 2009
	Trimester 3	15 November 2009– 13 February 2011

Withdrawal from Course:
Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before 21 November 2010.

The last date for withdrawal from this course is the three-quarter point of the teaching period, being 28 January 2011. After that date, students wishing to withdraw late must apply on an 'Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late' including supporting documentation. The application form is available from the Student Customer Service Desks at Rutherford House or Easterfield Building.

Course Format

Times:	Regular meetings with supervisor
Time commitment:	Expect to spend 12-14 hours per week on course related work
Lectures/tutorials:	There are no regular lectures or tutorials
Research seminars:	To be held as needed

Course Aims

This course provides an opportunity for students to complete a research project on an information systems/ electronic commerce topic. It is intended for high achieving students nearing the end of their degree who have demonstrated, through their academic record, that they are capable of largely independent work of a high standard.

A student may undertake this course if, and only if: (a) the course coordinator determines that the student has a sufficiently strong previous academic record such that a course of independent study is appropriate; (b) a suitably qualified member of staff with an interest in, and knowledge of, the student's proposed area of study is willing and able to serve as supervisor for the student.

The school cannot guarantee that an appropriately qualified member of staff will be available to act as supervisor in every instance. The School does not expect more than two or three such offerings of INFO/ELCM 391 in any given year.

Course Learning Objectives

Students passing this course should be able to:
1. Identify, clarify and investigate a research problem in information systems/electronic commerce;
2. Locate, analyse, and integrate relevant literature;
3. Gather and analyse additional data if appropriate; and
4. Present a coherent, well-organised argument (written and oral) based on the above.

Prerequisites

- At least 24 points of prior 300 level INFO/ELCM courses, and an academic record with a minimum B+ average
- An established relationship with an INFO/ELCM academic who has expressed a willingness to supervise the student in an agreed topic of mutual interest in the field of Information Systems
- The consent of the Head of School, who may delegate this authority to the Director of Undergraduate Programmes

Readings

Recommended Text: Creswell, J. (2009). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods approaches. (3rd Ed) Sage, Thousand Oaks, CA. (This book is available in the library and does not need to be purchased)

Literature: You will make extensive use of the library print and CD-ROM media as well as online academic literature databases.

Assessment Requirements

		Due Date
Written Research Report	100%	5pm on the last working day of the trimester in which you are enrolled in:
		Trimester 1: Friday 4 June 2010
		Trimester 2: Friday 15 October 2010
		Trimester 3: Friday 11 February 2011

Your supervisor will help you in planning and preparing the research report.

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 Submission: Written research reports submitted after the deadline will incur a 5% penalty (of the mark obtained) for each working day it's late. In the event of bereavement or prolonged illness affecting your ability to meet deadlines, discuss your situation with your supervisor and advise the Course Co-ordinator. You must substantiate your claim with appropriate documentation, for example, a medical certificate.

Project Milestones

Activity	Due
Choose a topic and a supervisor Early selection of a topic sensitises you to issues and the potential value of literature you read during your other studies	At least one month prior to trimester commencement
Submit a research proposal to your chosen supervisor and the Director of Undergraduate Programmes. You should work with your proposed supervisor prior to the trimester in which the research is undertaken	At least two weeks prior to the trimester commencement
Obtain HEC clearance as required and if directed by your supervisor	Prior to commencing research
Submit the final draft of written research report	Date to be agreed with supervisor
Submit two copies of your written research report (plus a digital copy) to the Course Co-ordinator	By 5.00 pm on last day of trimester prior to exam break

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/

INFO/ELCM 391   Research Paper in Information Systems/Electronic Commerce Mark Sheet for Written Report

Student's Name:
Topic:
Marker's Name:

	Poor	OK	Good

Problem identification
    Statement of objectives and/or hypothesis
    Identification of boundary of study			

Understanding of the literature
    Review of current state of knowledge
    Organisation of survey into appropriate themes
    Relevance to research objectives			

Research methodology
    Explanation of methodology
    Appropriate application of methodology			

Results
    Description of results
    Comparison and/or evaluation of results with reference to the literature			

Conclusions/implications
    Relates findings to original objectives
    Clear conclusions and implications
    Ideas for future research			

Presentation
    Communication - clear and concise
    Thesis meets requirements for professional competency
    Accurate and complete citation and referencing			

Overall Impact Demonstrates an ability to conduct credible research			
Comments	**Grade**		