TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

School of Information Management

INFO 402 CURRENT ISSUES IN IS RESEARCH

Trimester Two 2011

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE COORDINATOR
Dr Beverley Hope, BSc, MBA *Kansas*, PhD *Hawaii*

Room: RH404
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Office hours: By appointment or drop-in

Trimester Dates

From Monday 11 July to Friday 14 October 2011

Class Times and Room Numbers
Seminars will be held Mondays 9.30 am-12:30 pm in RWW 220

Communications:
Because this is a small class with full attendance expected, notices will be announced in class. Some messages may be sent via an email distribution list. If you have a non-VUW preferred email address it is wise to arrange an automatic forward from VUW email to your preferred address.

If you must miss a lecture, it is expected that you will notify the course coordinator before class. When you ask your colleagues about the work missed, be sure to also ask about any notices given. The responsibility for remaining informed or obtaining copies of any handouts rests with the student. Basic course documents will be available on Blackboard.

Withdrawal from the Course:
1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before 22 July 2011.

2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday, 23 September 2011. After that date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an 'Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late' including supporting documentation.

The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks.

Course Content

Building on INFO 401, this course makes a critical examination of recent literature in 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 Learning Objectives

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

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 students will attend every session and come prepared to participate. If unavoidable factors prevent attendance a student will phone or email the course coordinator preferably before 9.00 am on the day of the seminar.

Expected Workload

Students are expected to work 150 hours for this course. Times will vary for individuals, but the following breakdown presents one estimate of how that time may be broken down:
Attending lectures and end-term test:...... 36 hours (3 hours each for 12 sessions)
Reading material for each class:.............. 66 hours (6 hours for each of 11 sessions)
Review and editing assignment: .... 40 hours
Preparing for the end-term test:............... 8 hours (open book test)

Readings

Articles for discussion will be selected by academics who are expert in each topic area. Usually articles are supplied one week ahead of the class and placed on Blackboard.

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 Summaries and seminar leadership
Each week, designated students will each submit a written overview of an assigned article. The overview will include (a) a descriptive summary of the main ideas of the paper (about 1.5 pages), and (b) a short critique which comments on the ideas presented and puts the paper into context relative to other papers read within or outside the course (about ½ page). The designated students will also lead a 40-45 minute discussion of the paper. The emphasis in this course is on the ideas, models, and content of the paper, together with discussion of how the area might be extended. Article critiquing is expected but **not** emphasized.

Typed Summaries due by email by7.00 am on the day of the presentation. Objectives: 1, 2, 3
<u>Suggestion</u>: it is better for you and your preparedness to submit the day before (or earlier).

(b) Seminar participation
Class members must attend every class, read the weeks assigned articles 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, Objectives: 1, 2, 3.

(c) Article review and editing assignment
In this two-phased task class members demonstrate the progress made in their ability to evaluate academic articles (INFO's 401, 402, & 403. The first phase simulates the article review process carried out by reviewers for conferences or journals. In the second phase, the process carried out by the journal editor or conference track chair is simulated.
Due: Article Review 15 August.   Editors Report 12 September   Objective: 1

(d) End term test
This a three hour open book test consisting of mini-essay style questions which cover the material of the course. To succeed students must demonstrate the ability to reflect on, synthesize, and critically evaluate the readings in the courses. A sample past exam paper will be supplied.
To be held: 10 October   Objectives 1, 2, 3

Quality Assurance 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.

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.

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Mandatory Course Requirements
It is expected that Honours students will attend all classes and inform the course coordinator if for any 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.

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details made available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator, and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

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

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study

Find out about academic progress and restricted enrolment at
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.aspx

The University's statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the Calendar webpage at
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Further information about the University's academic processes can be found on the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/default.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/

Te Pūtahi Atawhai
Maori and Pacific Mentoring Programme
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/tpa/index.aspx

Topic Schedule (*tentative*)

Week	Date	Topic	Topic Expert
1	11 July	Rigor, Relevance, Writing, and Reviewing	Beverley
2	18 July	Reviewing for Publication	Beverley
3	25 July	E-Government	Allan Sylvester
4	1 Aug	Cyber security awareness and practice	Nicole Braun
5	8 Aug	Topic to be confirmed (materiality of IT?)	Jean-Gregoire Bernard
6	15 Aug	IT Governance *-- Assessment: Article Reviews Due --*	David Johnstone
		Mid-Semester Break	
7	5 Sept	Coordination in IT project development	Diane Strode
8	12 Sept	Use of ICTs in the Voluntary Service Sector	Nishanie Pereira
9	19 Sept	Mobile Workers *-- Assessment: Editorial Reviews Due --*	Brian Harmer
10	26 Sept	RFID in government	Marta Vos
11	03 Oct	Health Information Systems	Rowena Cullen
12	10 Oct	*-- Assessment: End Term Test --*	

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.

As course coordinator, I am indebted to those staff and doctoral students who share with us their expertise.