
School of Information Management
INFO 405 IT AND THE NEW ORGANISATION
Trimester Two 2011

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

Course Coordinator	Benoit A. Aubert
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Office hours	meetings by appointment

Class Times and Room Numbers

Trimester dates	11 July – 14 October 2011
Class dates	14 July – 18 August and 8 September - 13 October 2011
Class time	8.30am-11.20am
Venue	RWW 125
Tutorials	None

Withdrawal from Courses:

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 *23 September*. After this 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

A manager's job in the 21st century organization is not easy. Not only does he or she have to cope with the barrage of changes raining down like shrapnel, today's manager must also lead his or her organization through this uncharted territory all the while trying to carry on the business of the firm. The 21st century manager lives in a world where he or she is told to abandon the tried and true assumptions about business and the tools and practices which have been developed carefully over time. At the same time, new fads are coming and going at the speed of light. The media, vendors and consultants hype ideas and technologies before they are fully developed. Often, it is unclear just why all this is happening and how it all fits together. Thus, many managers today must feel like they are facing a table full of jigsaw puzzle pieces with no idea of the size, shape, or outline of what they are supposed to accomplish. Somehow, they must put together a coherent picture of what their particular organization will look like but with so many pieces, and no picture to guide them, the task seems Herculean.

The traditional models of developing IT strategy are deemed inadequate to meet the challenges of the information age. IT can be used to transform the organization, increase coordination, and enable collaboration. All these capabilities have to be clearly understood and managers have to understand that the challenge is not in implementing the technology itself, but in devising how IT can be used to rethink how business is conducted. This is changing drastically the structure of the organizations. It has changed to virtual, network, organic, etc. No single form is better than the others. Again, understanding the particularities of each is essential to predict the best fit between environment, technology, strategy and structure.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course students will be able to (Week # in parenthesis):

1. Describe and understand the context in which organizations operate (1).
2. Understand the relationship between innovation, organizational structure and information technology (2, 9, 10)
3. Better understand the key technologies changing the current business structures (2, 3, 6).
4. Understand how information technology can be used to transform the organizations and their competitive environment (4, 5).
5. Understand how to apply tools, IT, and governance modes in order to change the organization (7, 8)
6. Define the various forms of organization currently observed in the business environment and explain how each type can be adapted to its competitive environment (all).
7. Understand the trade-offs between various management options (10)

Course Delivery

Students are expected to have read the material carefully and be ready to discuss it. The discussion will be centered on the clarification of the concepts and their application to real-live situations.

The first six weeks will be delivered in a traditional seminar format. The second half of the course will be delivered (in part) virtually, using a variety of technologies. Guest speakers are expected.

Classes will be delivered in an interactive, seminar style. Students will be required to do preparatory work for each class and participate in class discussions and presentations.

Expected Workload

Students are expected to work on average 150 hours for this course. The following breakdown reflects the course structure:

- Attending lectures and test: 36 hours
- Preparing for lectures (reading the material and preparing notes): 64 hours
- Writing assignments (4): 40 hours
- Studying for test: 10 hours

Group Work

There will be no group work although students will often be required to discuss topics or work in groups.

Course Coordinator Background

Benoit A. Aubert is currently Professor at HEC Montreal where he holds the professorship in Governance and Information Technology. He is adjunct professor at the School of Information Management (Victoria University of Wellington). Dr. Aubert has a long record of collaborations with

both private and public organizations. He frequently acts as expert consultant on outsourcing decisions, IT strategy and enterprise transformation. Benoit Aubert was President and Chief Executive Officer of the CIRANO and Director of Research at HEC Montréal.

His main research areas are outsourcing, risk management, and new organization forms (virtual, network, alliances, etc.). He also published papers on trust, ontology, and health care information systems. He is Senior Editor of Database and has a long record of collaborations with both private and public organizations.

Readings

There is no textbook for this course but students are expected to download the following readings and prepare them for class discussion on a weekly basis.

Course Content/Readings

Wk	Date	Topic/Reading
1	14/7	<p><u>IT and the New Economy</u></p> <p>Godin Benoît (2006). The Knowledge-Based Economy: Conceptual Framework or Buzzword? <i>Journal of Technology Transfer</i>, (31:1) 17 -30.</p> <p>Rivard S., Aubert, B. A., Paré, Guy, Patry, M., Smith, Heather, (2004) Information technology and organizational transformation: The management puzzle. Butterworth-Heinemann, Part I - The Puzzle Frame, The puzzle edges 1-40</p> <p>Background material: Aubert B. and Reich, B., (2009), Extracting Value from Information Technologies, Burgundy Report, CIRANO, 38 pages. http://www.cirano.gc.ca/pdf/publication/2009RB-04.pdf</p>
2	21/7	<p><u>The Organization Puzzle – Internal Organization</u></p> <p>Rivard S., Aubert, B. A., Paré, Guy, Patry, M., Smith, Heather, (2004) Information technology and organizational transformation: The management puzzle, Butterworth-Heinemann.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure, pp. 58-92 and Oticon, pp. 165-193 <p>Tushman, M., Smith, W., Wood, R., Westerman, G., & O'Reilly, C. (2010). Organizational designs and innovation streams. <i>Industrial and Corporate Change</i>, 19(5), 1331.</p>
3	28/7	<p><u>IT and New Org. Structures – External Boundaries</u></p> <p>Ahrne, G., Brunsson, N. (2011). Organization outside organizations: the significance of partial organization. <i>Organization</i>, 18(1), 83.</p> <p>Rivard S., Aubert, B. A., Paré, Guy, Patry, M., Smith, Heather (2004) Information technology and organizational transformation: The management puzzle, Butterworth-Heinemann, Li and Fung, 194-226</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=etAVCmI5H98&feature=related
4	4/8	<p><u>IT Outsourcing</u></p> <p>Aubert, Benoit A, Patry, Michel and Rivard, Suzanne, (2004). A Transaction Cost Model of IT Outsourcing, <i>Information and Management</i> (41), 921-932.</p> <p>Aubert, Benoit A., Patry, Michel, Rivard, Suzanne (2005), Taking Stock on IT Outsourcing Risk, <i>Database</i>, (36:4) 9-28.</p> <p>Background information: Aubert, Benoit A., Patry, Michel, Rivard, Suzanne (2003), A Tale of Two Contracts, An Agency-Theoretical Perspective, <i>Wirtschaftsinformatik</i>, (45:2), 181-190.</p>

5	11/8	<p><u>Offshoring</u></p> <p>Alan S. Blinder (2006) Foreign Affairs. Offshoring: The Next Industrial Revolution? (85:2) 113-118.</p> <p>Drezner Daniel (2004), The Outsourcing Bogeyman, Foreign Affairs (83:3) 22-28.</p> <p>Aubert, Rivard, Templier, Information Technology and Distance-induced Effort to Manage Offshore Activities, forthcoming, IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management.</p> <p>White, J.B. What is an American Car? Wall Street Journal, 26 Jan. 2009, http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123265601944607285.html.</p> <p>Background Material: OECD, Offshoring and Employment: Trends and Impacts. Introduction (downloadable from the OECD website) 2007.</p>
6	18/8	<p><u>Expanding the organization toward the individuals using IT</u></p> <p>Hanna, R., Rohm, A., & Crittenden, V. (2011). We're all connected: The power of the social media ecosystem. Business Horizons, 54(3), 265.</p> <p>Parise, Salvatore, Social Media Networks: What Do They Mean for Knowledge Management?, Journal of Information Technology Case and Application Research, 11(2), 2009, 1 – 11.</p>
7	8/9	<p><u>Information technology (ERP and CRM)</u></p> <p>Rivard S., Aubert, B. A., Paré, Guy, Patry, M., Smith, Heather, (2004) Information technology and organizational transformation: The management puzzle, Butterworth-Heinemann, Chapter 4 – IT, 93-122</p> <p>Roberts R. and Sikes J. IT in the new normal: McKinsey Global Survey results, December 2009.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAP Software www.sap.com <p>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_YY6z-rsw&feature=related</p>
8	15/9	<p><u>Organization Redesign</u></p> <p>Aubert, B., Bourdeau, S., Walker, B., (2007) Bombardier, HEC Montreal, 35p.</p> <p>Heinen, T., Gerst, D., & Nyhuis, P.. (2008). Management of Factory Transformability on the Basis of Business Processes. The Business Review, Cambridge, 9(2), 295-302.</p>
9	22/9	<p><u>IT, Knowledge, and Organizational Structure</u></p> <p>Rivard S., Aubert, B. A., Paré, Guy, Patry, M., Smith, Heather (2004) Information technology and organizational transformation: The management puzzle, Butterworth-Heinemann, Knowledge Management (chapter 11), 267-282.</p> <p>Aubert, B.A., Bernard, J.-G., Caro-Gonzalez, C. Defining Knowledge Management System Risk, PACIS 2011. Brisbane, July 2011.</p>
10	29/9	<p><u>IT, Structure, and Innovation</u></p> <p>Leiponen, A., & Helfat, C.. (2011). Location, Decentralization, and Knowledge Sources for Innovation. Organization Science, 22(3), 641-658.</p> <p>Lindic, J., Baloh, P., Ribiere, V. M., Desouza, K. C., Deploying information technologies for organizational innovation: Lessons from case studies, International Journal of Information Management, 31, 2, April 2011, 183-188.</p>

11	6/10	<u>Integrating Concepts/ implications for the workforce</u> Brooks, N., Miller, R., & Korzaan, M.. (2009). IT Workers on Outsourcing: What About Me? What About The Profession? Academy of Information and Management Sciences Journal, 12(1/2), 1-12. Indira R Guzman, & Jeffrey M Stanton. (2009). IT occupational culture: the cultural fit and commitment of new information technologists. Information Technology & People, 22(2), 157-187. McGregor, J., Tweed, D., Pech, R., Human capital in the new economy: devil's bargain? Journal of Intellectual Capital, 5, 1, 2004, 153-164
12	13/10	End term test

Although we intend to follow the schedule as closely as possible, variations may be necessary. Any changes will be communicated via the normal channels.

Materials and Equipment

Recommended textbook: Rivard S., Aubert, B. A., Paré, Guy, Patry, M., Smith, Heather, Information Technology and Organizational Transformation: The Management Puzzle, Butterworth-Heinemann, 2004, 320 pgs.

Readings: The detailed list of readings is outlined in the course content. All the papers listed are available through the Library electronic databases.

Literature: You will make extensive use of the University Library print and electronic media and limited use of Internet resources.

Assessment Requirements

		Due Date
Individual papers (4) 15% each	60%	28/7, 11/8, 15/9 and 29/9
End term test (3 hours)	<u>40%</u>	13/10
Total	100%	

Individual papers: Each week specific topics will be discussed and articles will be provided to the students. In their individual papers, students should make special efforts to apply these concepts to real organizations. The goal of the paper is to show understanding of the theoretical concepts. This requires integration or application. 1000 words/paper.

Examples:

- Find a case in real life, for example, in the newspaper or on a web site, and explain the situation using the concepts introduced in class
- Take two concepts introduced in class and integrate them to create a new theoretical model and explain what types of real-life situation this model would be able to explain
- Take two concepts introduced in class and contrast them to show under which circumstances each one would be suitable to explain real-life situations

These assignments demand the production of original knowledge. Summarizing concepts covered in class is not acceptable and will be given a score of zero.

The students are strongly encouraged to validate their choice of topic for the assignment with the instructor and submit a draft for comments before the due date.

Assignments are to be submitted by e-mail by 8:30:00am on the due date.

If the student wishes, one of the assignment can be replaced by a presentation done in class. Details of the presentation format are available on demand.

End-Term Test: Further details regarding the test will be advised in class closer to the date. Students are obliged to be present at university until the end of the examination period. An example of past exam will be provided.

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

Assessment submitted after the due date will not be accepted and students will not receive any marks. The examiner will only mark the assessment up to the word limit.

Mandatory Course Requirements

An attendance register will be kept, however, there will be no penalty for non-attendance other than knowledge deprivation.

Communication of Additional Information

Notices relating to this course will be announced in class or distributed via email. Please do not forget to indicate your preferred email address.

Use of Turnitin

Student work provided for assessment in this course may 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/policy/academic.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/Student