

School of Information Management
Te Kura Tiaki, Whakawhiti Kōrero

INFO 401
FOUNDATIONS OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH

Trimester 1, 2012
COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR: Mary Tate

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Room: RH 504

Office hours: by appointment

TRIMESTER ONE DATES

From Monday 5 March to Friday 8 June

WITHDRAWAL FROM COURSE

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 16 March 2012.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 18 May. 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.

CLASS TIMES and ROOM NUMBERS

Dates: 5 March to 22 June (11 teaching weeks followed by a take-home test, timing tba in week 12 or 13). Note: there is no class on Wednesday 25 April due to the ANZAC day holiday.

Times: Wednesday 10:30 – 13:20 and other times as arranged

Venue: Room RHG03

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course provides an overview of some of the main streams of research that have contributed to the field of information systems. The course will provide students with the perspective needed to appreciate current and future trends in information systems research. This course also builds skills that will assist students in developing the capability to carry out independent research in the fields of information systems and electronic commerce.

By the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Understand some of the core "body of knowledge" in the information systems field (LG3).
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 timetable (LG1).
3. Perform a thorough search for relevant Information Systems research in print media, CD-ROM, online databases, and Internet resources (LG2).
4. Evaluate academic articles including both research papers and surveys of others' research (LG2).
5. Write a concise, logical, and integrated review of academic literature, using appropriate style, language, citation, and referencing (LG1, LG4).
6. Present research-based knowledge and ideas clearly and persuasively (LG4, LG5).

COURSE DELIVERY

This is a face-to-face seminar-style course. We will do academic article reviews and discussion presented and led by students. Each week a sample question will be provided. Questions in the final test will be similar to these weekly questions. You are expected, as a minimum, to be thoroughly familiar with ALL the essential course readings, and to come to class ready to discuss topics related to these readings, regardless of whether they have been presented in class. The supplementary material on Blackboard is provided as a resource for your use.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

Three hours per week in class and another 2 hours per week on average preparing for class. Students can expect to spend a significant amount of time (6 hours per week plus) on self-study and completing assessments.

COURSE READINGS and OTHER MATERIALS

An essential set of readings is available from Student Notes. Supplementary materials will be provided on the course Blackboard site.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS:

Course assessment will be based on:

		Due Date	
Article Reviews & Seminar Leadership	20%	in class as assigned	9.00 am*
Research Question	5%	Friday 23 March	5.00 pm
Literature Review Outline/Poster	5%	Wednesday 25 April	in class
Annotated Bibliography	10%	Wednesday 25 April	in class
Literature Review	30%	Fri, 1 June	5.00 pm
End Term Take-Home Test	30%	tba during weeks 12 and 13	

* Article reviews and associated PowerPoint presentation slides are due via email by 9.00 am on the day of presentation.

Overall grade will be calculated as above, OR will be calculated based on the Literature Review, End Term Test, and Article Reviews and Seminar Leadership, whichever is greater.

Article Reviews: Each week designated students will lead class discussion of assigned articles. This involves summarising and critiquing the article in light of related literature and leading a class discussion of the article. In addition, a written summary and critique, together with slides for a PowerPoint presentation, must be posted on Blackboard by 9:00 am on the day of the presentation. Details will be provided in a separate document and discussed in the first session. No extensions can be granted on this assessment item.

Testing Objective 1,2 and 4.

Research Question: No extensions can be granted on this assessment item.

Testing Objective 1, 2, 3 4 and 5

Submit your draft research question and your responses to the self and peer review document. These can be in note form and quite informal. The purpose is for the course co-ordinator to be able to follow your strategy in developing your question rather than for you to develop a “polished” piece of work at this stage. You may add to or change your question or your responses to the self and peer review document based on the review workshop in-class. Your research question will be a “work-in-progress” but the earlier you can arrive at a realistic question, the easier you will find subsequent assessments based on your RQ in Info 401 and Info 403

Annotated Bibliography: You will make an extensive search of the literature through online databases and other library resources to identify 15-30 good articles relevant to your Literature Review topic and prepare an annotated bibliography. This is a list of citations to research journal articles or research-informed chapters in edited books. Each citation is followed by a brief (150-200

word) descriptive paragraph (the annotation). The purpose of the annotation is to inform the compiler and reader of the main ideas, findings, relevance, and contribution of each article.

Testing Objectives 2, 3 and 5.

Literature Review Outline and Poster: The outline is a detailed outline of the proposed literature review, including headings and subheadings with a 4-10 line summary or bulleted list under each heading clearly indicating the intended content of each section or sub-section. For each section, you should include a list of proposed citations from your annotated bibliography (where possible). The objective of the outline is to demonstrate comprehensiveness and logical flow of ideas and to obtain feedback. In addition, you must supply a “poster” summary of your outline. This is an A4 (or larger) diagram that shows the outline of the argument structure you are proposing for your literature review.

Testing Objectives 2,3,4 and 5

Literature Review: An introduction to a proposed (INFO 408) research project, and a comprehensive literature review. You will make an extensive search of academic literature through online databases and other library resources. Limited searching of the Internet may be undertaken but is not expected. Details will be provided in a separate document and discussed in class sessions.

Testing Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

End-Term Test: This test assesses your understanding of and ability to integrate all course material. It will be a take-home test held during week 12 or 13. Further details will be advised in class closer to the date. There is no final (formal) examination for this course.

Testing Objectives 1,2, 4 and 5

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.*

Penalties: Late Article Reviews and the Test scripts will NOT be accepted. All other assessments submitted after the deadline will incur a 5% penalty (of the mark obtained) for each day late up to seven days, but will not be accepted after seven days lateness. In the event of bereavement or prolonged illness affecting your ability to meet deadlines, discuss your situation with the Course Coordinator. You must substantiate your claim with appropriate documentation, for example, a medical certificate.

GROUP WORK

There is no formally assessed group work in this course. However, active participation and engagement with other students is an expectation of the course.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

You are required to attend all course sessions, read assigned materials, and contribute to discussions.

Attendance: On-time attendance is mandatory. Do NOT miss class. Do NOT be late.

Mandatory Requirements: To pass the course, you must gain a minimum of 40% on both the literature review and the end-term test and more than 50% across all course assessments combined. To obtain a fair distribution of marks relative to assignment difficulty, scaling of marks may be employed on some or all assessments.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Notices relating to this course may be distributed via any of the following media: announced in class; distributed via an INFO 401 email distribution list; or via the Blackboard site. Please keep the course co-ordinator and BCA (Hons) Director informed of any change in your preferred email address. From time to time, supplementary material may be placed on the Blackboard site for the course.

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/avcademic/default.aspx

AVC (Academic) Website: information including: Conduct, Academic Grievances, Students with Impairments, Student Support

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcademic/Publications.aspx

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fca/studenthelp/>

Te Putahi Atawhai

Maori and Pacific Mentoring Programme

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/tpa/>

Week	Date	Topic
1	7 March	THE IS DISCIPLINE <i>Course details</i> <i>In class exercise: The IS Discipline</i> <i>In class exercise: Writing summaries & critiques of academic articles</i>
2	14 March	INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH AND BUSINESS NEEDS Article critiques
3	21 March	RIGOR, RELEVANCE, AND CONSUMABLE RESEARCH <i>In class exercise: Research question workshop</i> DUE Friday 23 rd March, 5:00 pm, <i>Research Question</i> Article critiques
4	28 March	THE LITERATURE REVIEW Article critiques
5	4 April	RESEARCH FRAMEWORKS IN IS <i>In class exercise: Poster</i> Article critiques
		Mid Term Break
6	25 April	NO CLASS – ANZAC DAY HOLIDAY DUE Friday 27 th April, <i>Lit. Review Outline & Poster, Annotated Bibliography</i>
7	2 May	INFORMATION Article critiques
8	9 May	IS SUCCESS and IS IMPACT Article critiques
9	16 May	USER ACCEPTANCE Article critiques
10	23 May	TASK TECHNOLOGY FIT Article critiques
11	30 May	THE IS DISCIPLINE REPRISED DUE FRIDAY 1 st June 5:00 pm, by e-mail: <i>Literature Review</i> Article critiques
12-13		Take-home test (tba)

Although we intend to follow the schedule as closely as possible, variations may be necessary.