

School of Information Management  
**INFO 391 RESEARCH PAPER  
IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

Trimester 2 2012

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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**Course Co-ordinator**

David Mason  
RH 501, Rutherford House, Pipitea Campus  
Tel: 04 463 7435  
E-mail: david.mason@vuw.ac.nz

**Trimester Dates**

Monday 16 July to Friday 19 October

**Withdrawal from Course**

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 27 July 2012.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 28 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 Format**

*Times:* Regular meetings with supervisor  
*Time commitment:* Expect to spend 10-12 hours per week on work related to INFO 391  
*Lectures/tutorials:* There are no regular lectures or tutorials  
*Research seminars:* To be held as needed

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 Content**

This course provides an opportunity for students to complete a research project on an information systems 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 391 in any given year.

### **Prerequisites**

- At least 24 points of prior 300 level INFO courses, and an academic record with a minimum B+ average
- An established relationship with an INFO 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

### **Course Learning Objectives**

Students passing this course should be able to:

1. Identify, clarify and investigate a research problem in information systems;
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.

### **Readings**

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

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

### **Assessment Requirements**

100% written research report due on the last day of trimester, Friday 17 October.

Your supervisor will assist you with planning and preparing the report.

### 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 FCom programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

### **Examinations**

This course is internally assessed and there is no final exam.

### **Penalties**

*Late Submission:* Written research reports submitted after the deadline will incur a 5% penalty (of the mark obtained) for each working day 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.

## **Mandatory Course Requirements**

There are no mandatory course requirements for this course.

## **Communication of Additional Information**

In addition to mutually agreed meetings, communication between the supervisor and student is primarily by telephone and email.

## **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**

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx)

### **Faculty of Commerce Office**

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

### **Te Putahi Atawhai**

#### **Maori and Pacific Mentoring Programme**

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

**INFO 391 Research Paper in Information Systems**

**Mark Sheet for Written Report**

<b>Student's Name:</b>
<b>Topic:</b>
<b>Marker's Name:</b>

	<b>Poor</b>	<b>OK</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Problem identification</b> Statement of objectives and/or hypothesis Identification of boundary of study			
<b>Understanding of the literature</b> Review of current state of knowledge Organisation of survey into appropriate themes Relevance to research objectives			
<b>Research methodology</b> Explanation of methodology Appropriate application of methodology			
<b>Results</b> Description of results Comparison and/or evaluation of results with reference to the literature			
<b>Conclusions/implications</b> Relates findings to original objectives Clear conclusions and implications Ideas for future research			
<b>Presentation</b> Communication - clear and concise Thesis meets requirements for professional competency Accurate and complete citation and referencing			
<b>Overall Impact</b> Demonstrates an ability to conduct credible research			
<b>Comments</b>	<b>Grade</b>		