TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

School of Information Management

INF0402 CURRENT ISSUES IN IS RESEARCH

Trimester 2 2012

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Allan Sylvester (Course Co-ordinator)	Professor Nicholas Romano
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Room: RH524	Room: RH525
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Trimester Dates

  Teaching Period: Monday 16 July – Friday 19 October
  Study Period: Monday 22 October – Thursday 25 October (Monday 22 October is a public holiday, Labour Day)
  From Monday 16 July to Friday 26 Oct (inclusive)

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.

Class Times and Room Numbers

Weekly seminar: Monday 1030 – 1320hrs in RH-G03.

Course Content

Week	Topic	Notes
16 July	Critical Research in IS	See Bb for weekly readings
23 July	Connected society	In-class critical evaluation exercise
30 July	E-Research	
6 August	E-Government research	
13 August	Digital Equity	In-class research exercise
20 August	Business intelligence research	
Mid-Term Break		
(a) Take home test 1 due: 30 August		
10 September	Collaborative systems	
17 September	Personalization, Privacy and Identity Disclosure in Virtual Society.	
(b) Article review due: 20 September		
24 September	Current issues in Cross-Border and Cross-Organisational Collaboration and Global Virtual Teams.	
1 October	Social Media	
8 October	Neuro IS	
15 October	Science in IS – Epistemologies, Paradigms and Approaches.	
Study Week		
(c) Take home test 2 due: 26 October		

*Note: Second half topics are tentative and subject to revision when Prof' Romano arrives in NZ mid-term.

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) (Learning goals: LG1, LG3, LG4).

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, c) (Learning goals: LG2, LG3, LG5)

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, c) (Learning Goals: LG1, LG2, LG3)

(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.

Article Summaries due by email by 5.00 pm on the day before the seminar. Objectives: 1, 2, 3.

(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.
Objectives: 1, 2, 3.

(c) Article review and editing assignment
In this task class members demonstrate the progress made in their ability to evaluate academic articles (INFOs 401, 402, & 403).

The task simulates the article review process carried out by reviewers for conferences or journals and the process carried out by the journal editor or conference track chair.

Due: Article Review and Editors Report 20 September. Objective: 1

(d) Take home tests
These are take home tests consisting of mini-essay style questions which cover the material of each half of the course. To succeed students must demonstrate the ability to reflect on, synthesize, and critically evaluate the readings in the courses. Objectives 1, 2, 3

Course Delivery

Face to face post-graduate seminars and individual study.

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 seminars: ...... 36 hours (3 hours each for 12 sessions)
Reading material for each class and having unstructured discussions with classmates:
.... 88 hours (8 hours for each of 11 sessions)
Review and editing assignment: .... 10 hours
Preparing for the take home test: .... 16 hours

Group Work
While there is no formal group work for this course, being part of the honours cohort is an important aspect of the learning in the course. You are strongly encouraged to work at least part of the time in the lab and be willing to engage in informal debates on the course topics with your classmates.

Readings
Weekly readings will be posted on Blackboard. These are not set too far ahead as your instructors may adjust the workload in a given week or shift the topic emphasis to suit where the groups learning is at and the overall honours programme.

Assessment Requirements

Assessed item	%
Article summaries and seminar leadership and participation.	30
Take home test 1	25
Take home test 2	25
Article review exercise	20

The following note should be included in every course outline:

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
There is no final examination for this course.

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.

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 can 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.

Communication of Additional Information

Face to face, email and blackboard are the primary communications devices for this course. It is a small course and cohort – you cannot hide.

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
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 Office
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp

Te Putahi Atawhai
Maori and Pacific Mentoring Programme
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/tpa/