

School of Information Management

**INFO 560 SPECIAL TOPIC:
DESIGN AND EVALUATION OF HUMAN-COMPUTER
INTERACTION**

Trimester 2 2012

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator: Dr. Robert B. Allen
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Senior Tutor (Auckland and upper North Island students): Claire Scott
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Senior Tutor (Other distance students and Wellington): Shannon Wellington
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Programme Administrator: Chris King
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Phoning from outside Wellington: Freephone 0800 116 299 and ask to be connected to the appropriate staff member.

Trimester Dates

From Monday 16 July to 23, October 2012

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, 2012

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

INFO 560 will be held in the second trimester (July-October) of the 2012 academic year. There will be no sessions for two weeks during the mid-term break. Please note that this course will be taught in distance mode only.

The weekly Internet convergence sessions will be held on Tuesdays from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Course Content

An examination of theories and methods for analysing and improving human-computer interaction, involving application areas ranging from mobile apps to complex collaborative activities.

Course Learning Objectives

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

1. Understand theories, methods, and issues for human-computer interaction
2. Design effective applications that interact with information resources
3. Evaluate the usability of interactive services
4. Contribute to the development of complex interactive environments

Course Delivery

Weekly seminars, and Tutorials

See "Class times and room numbers", above

Course materials

Study guides, readings and other materials will be made available through Blackboard.

Online discussion

We will use the Blackboard online discussion board to discuss matters relating to the course.

IST programmes information

Information relating to the Information Studies Programmes will be found in the Blackboard Community *Information Studies*, and through the IST-students email list.

Readings

There is no textbook required for this course. The weekly readings will be available as web links or eReserves.

Expected Workload

To achieve satisfactory grades, you will need to spend approximately 12 hours per week on INFO 560, including time spent in the iConferencing sessions. You may find that some aspects of the course require less time, whereas others may require slightly more, depending on your previous knowledge of the topic.

Before each session, please read the material for the week's topic, look at any additional course content in Blackboard, and be ready to discuss the readings and other preparation work during the class.

Assessment Requirements

This course will be internally assessed. All assessment will be submitted online via Blackboard. For all further details, including breakdown of marks, requirements, and submission details, you should refer to the 'Assessment' section on Blackboard.

Assignment	Date due	Value	Length	Learning Objectives
1. Critiques and Summaries	Weeks 2,4,6,8,10,12	24%	Max 300 words	1,3
2. Essay/Evaluation	29 August	32%	2500 words	1,3,4
3. Project	23 October	32%	2500 words	1,2,3
4. Participation	Ongoing	12%	N/A	2,4

The Essay/Evaluation and Project assignments must contain a word count, easily available from your word-processing program. The word count should appear under your name. (Note: your name should appear only on the back of the last page of the assignment.)

Mandatory Course Requirements

To fulfil the mandatory course requirements for this course, you must complete all of the assignments in the required timeframe.

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.

Penalties

Assignments submitted or postmarked after they are due will have a 10% penalty imposed.

Assignments submitted more than one week late without an extension will be given a zero grade. All requests for extensions must be made in writing or via email before the due date, and must state a reason for the extension.

Class Representative

The IST programmes have a student committee which provides a communication channel to liaise with the Programmes Director and course coordinators on behalf of students.

Communication of Additional Information

Further details about the course, and additional information, will be made available through Blackboard.

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.

Blackboard

You can access Victoria's Blackboard online learning environment at:

<http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz/>

The Blackboard pages contain a Web-based forum to discuss issues related to the course, links to sites of interest, additional readings and information, updates, etc. If you have any difficulties logging on to Blackboard, please contact the Help Desk, at:

its-service@vuw.ac.nz

All students will also be automatically enrolled in the Information Studies community under 'My Organizations' on Blackboard. General announcements and information will be posted here, and you should check this site regularly.

Internet conferencing

Distance sessions are conducted via the Internet; in order to participate you will need an Internet-connected PC running Windows 7, Vista, or XP, microphone, and headphones/speakers.

To connect, go to the Internet conferencing page (and read the "Getting Started" information) at

<https://conferencing.sim.vuw.ac.nz/>

There is also an 'Internet Conferencing' button linking to this page in your course website on Blackboard.

Several days before your first class session, and at least 15 minutes before each subsequent session, you should test your system by going to the Echo Room. Regular classes will be held in the IST Conference Room; additional Discussion Rooms are available for breakout groups, and as a "waiting room" if a class is proceeding in the main IST room. Study groups are able to use the discussion rooms out of regular class times. For more information, please follow the help

links on the Internet Conferencing page; further details, including screen name conventions, are also available on the Information Studies pages under 'My Organizations' on Blackboard.

If you have problems with the Internet Conferencing site itself, please check the online help information first. If this does not help you solve your problem, please contact our in-house IT Support, which is available only during the evening Internet Conferencing sessions:

- **Freephone: 0800 116 299** (5-8 p.m. only) -- office phone forwarded directly to distance education support analyst during evenings
- Email: simconferencing@vuw.ac.nz

If for some reason your Internet Conferencing session does not happen, you should check on Blackboard for an announcement of any alternative arrangements the lecturer is making. Recordings of all distance sessions are also available for downloading from Blackboard.

Student email discussion list

Staff of the Information Studies Programmes use the **ist-students email discussion list** to make important announcements, and to share news and ideas relating to the programmes. **It is very important that you are subscribed to this list.**

Please make sure that a current email address which you check regularly is subscribed. We suggest that you remain a member of this list until **after you graduate**, because the list is used as the main channel to communicate important administration messages (including those about arrangements for graduation).

Emails are sent to ist-students frequently, so if you have not received any list messages for a few weeks it is a good idea to make sure you are still subscribed. If a list message is rejected by your email account you will automatically be unsubscribed from the list.

To subscribe, unsubscribe, and change your email address or options, go to
<http://lists.vuw.ac.nz/mailman/listinfo/ist-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/avcademic/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/>