School of Information Management

# INFO 391
## RESEARCH PAPER IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Trimester 3, 2012

## COURSE OUTLINE

**Course Co-ordinator**
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**Prerequisites**
- At least 15 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

This course 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 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.

**Trimester Dates**
19 November 2012 – 15 February 2013

**Withdrawal from Course**
1.  Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before 30 November.
2.  The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is 25 January.

After the last date stated in #2, 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 your 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:        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 Delivery**

The course involves working one on one with a not-for-profit client who has not yet developed a full understanding of their online presence.

- Assigned readings on research methods and requirements gathering methods.
- Doing practical field work gathering requirements.
- Identifying and documenting several technology alternatives to meet the requirements identified.
- Preparing a high level specification that meets the needs of the client organisation.

**Expected Workload**

The student is expected to invest 150 hours of effort in this 15-point course. It is likely that this will not be evenly distributed across the time of the project.

**Course Learning Objectives**

| Objective | On completion of this course, students should be able to: | FCom Graduate Attributes | Major attributes |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Identify, clarify and investigate a research problem in information systems; | 1,2,4,5,3 | 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 |
| 2 | Locate, analyse, and integrate relevant literature; | 1,2,4,5,3 | 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 |
| 3 | Gather and analyse additional data if appropriate; and | 1,2,4,5,3 | 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 |
| 4 | Present a coherent, well-organised argument (written and oral) based on the above. | | |

**FCom Graduate Attributes (FGA)**

1 Critical and creative thinking: our graduates will demonstrate application of critical and creative thinking skills to practical and theoretical problems.
2 Communication: our graduates will be effective communicators.
3 Global and multicultural perspective: our graduates will have a global and multicultural perspective.
4 Leadership: our graduates will recognise, support and display leadership.
5 Major attributes: our graduates will develop specific knowledge and skills in at least one business, economics or public policy discipline area.

**INFO Major Attributes (IMA)**

1 Understand and manage the interplay between people, technologies and organisations that underlies information systems
2 Demonstrates a sound understanding of IT and related organisational processes
3 Analyse, design, develop, test, implement and maintain information strategies, systems, processes and applications for organisations
4 Exploit opportunities created by technology innovations
5 Communicate the technical and managerial aspects of information systems
6 Understand, manage and control IT risks and security
7 Explain the impact of IT in either social, economic, legal or ethical issues in organisations and society

## Course Content
This course provides an opportunity for students to complete a research project on an information systems topic. A high degree of professionalism and ability to work without direct oversight is expected.

## Readings
*Recommended Text:* Creswell, J. (2009). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods approaches. (3rd ed) Sage, Thousand Oaks, CA. (this book does not need to be purchased as 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

| Item | Weight | Description | Due | Objectives |
|------|--------|-------------|-----|------------|
| Documentation of client brief | 20% | A summary of expectations (mini-project charter) agreed with the client and supervisor including a timeframe for the deliverables. | Week 3 | 1-4 |
| Reflective Journal | 20% | A reflective journal that records decisions made and reasoning for alternatives rejected, meeting notes and project activities undertaken. | Weekly | 1-4 |
| Progress Reports | 10% | A regular status update that indicates the steady progress being made. | Weekly | 1-4 |
| Final requirements document and client presentation. | 50% | Delivery of the final high quality report to the client and the accompanying presentation of findings. | Last day of trimester – see trimester dates | 1-4 |
| **TOTAL** | | **100%** | | |

The outcome will be a standard letter grade (A+ to E).

Grades for the projects are determined by the course co-ordinator. All assessment is done by the course co-ordinator. However, input from an academic colleague and the client will be sought and used as evidence of quality.

## Final report
The final report may contain material that is proprietary information of the client organisation and the process of working with the client may expose the student to confidential materials. The student and supervisor recognise this and will make every effort to preserve the confidentially of the clients information.

## Materials and Equipment
You are not allowed to incur expenses on the part of the university or client without prior written permission to do so.

## Mandatory Course Requirements
There are no mandatory requirements for this course.

## Link to General Information
For general information about course-related matters, please go to:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/information-for-staff

**Note to Students**

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 academic audit. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of VBS programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

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