TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

School of Information Management
Te Kura Tiaki, Whakawhiti Kōrero

INFO 401 FOUNDATIONS OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH

Trimester 1, 2014
COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor

Mary Tate
Email: mary.tate@vuw.ac.nz
Phone: 463 5265
Room: RH 504
Office hours: by appointment

Dates

Trimester Dates: Monday 3 March to Friday 6 June 2014 (Note: there is NO CLASS in week 1. A test will be held in week 13 or 14, date tba).
Times: Thursday 9:30 – 12:20 and other times as arranged
Venue: Room RWW311

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 14 March 2014.

2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 16 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.

Expected Workload

This is a 15 point course. One point should equate to 10 hours of work, which means a total of 150 hours for a 15-point course. With 11 three-hour classes a total of 33 hours class time will be required. The remaining 117 hours will be spread over the 12 teaching weeks and the mid-trimester break.

Readings
There is no set textbook for this course. Required readings are available from Student Notes. Additional material will be posted on the Blackboard site

Group Work
Any group work will occur in class and will not contribute to course grades.

Course Learning Objectives
This course provides an overview of some of the main streams of research that have contributed to the development of information systems as an academic discipline. 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 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.

Assessment Requirements

Course assessment will be based on:	Due Date		
Article Reviews & Seminar Leadership	20%	5:00 pm the previous day on Blackboard and by email to the course co-ordinator*	
Literature Review Outline/Poster	10%	Thursday 17 April	5:00 pm
Annotated Bibliography	10%	Thursday 17 April	5:00 pm
Literature Review	30%	Fri, 29 May	5:00 pm
End Term Take-Home Test	30%	tba during weeks 13 or 14	

* Article reviews and associated PowerPoint presentation slides are due via email by 5.00 pm on the day before the presentation.

INFO 401, Trimester 1, 2014

Note that from Trimester 1, 2014, a revised Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf.

In particular, there will be a new grade scheme, in which the A+ range will be 90-100% and 50-54% will be a C-.

Overall grade will be calculated as above, OR will be calculated based on the Literature Review with a weighting of 50%, the End Term Test, and Article Reviews and Seminar Leadership, whichever is greater. This recognises that the Literature Review Outline/Poster and Annotated Bibliography are interim deliverables. Work that improves significantly thoughout the trimester will be recognised by weighting the marks onto the completed Literature Review.

*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.

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.

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.

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 submitted to Turnitin. A copy of submitted materials will be retained 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.

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.

Class Representative
A class representative will 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.

Student feedback
Student feedback on University courses may be found at
www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

Link to general information
For general information about course-related matters, go to
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information

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.

****

INFO 401, Trimester 1, 2014

Indicative Schedule

Week		Topic/Assessment
1	6 March	No class
2	13 March	The IS Discipline • *Course overview* • *In-class exercise: the IS discipline* • *In class exercise: Writing summaries and critiques of academic articles*
3	20 March	What is the body of knowledge for information systems? • *Presentations and article critiques* • *Discussion*
4	27 March	What is the relationship of the academic discipline of information systems to practice, and to other academic disciplines? • *Presentations and article critiques* • *In-class exercise: Research question workshop*
5	3 April	Frameworks, metaphors and perspectives in IS • *Presentations and article critiques* • *In class exercise: making a metaphor for information systems*
6	10 April	The Literature Review • *Presentations and article critiques* • *Discussion* • *In-class exercise: Poster*
7	17 April	Conceptualizing Information • *Presentations and article critiques* • *Discussion* **Due Thursday 17 April:** Literature Review Outline, Poster and Annotated Bibliography
No class		Mid-term Break: 18 April - 4 May
8	8 May	IS Success and Impact • *Presentations and article critiques* • *Discussion*
9	15 May	User Acceptance • *Presentations and article critiques* • *Discussion*
10	22 May	IS Usage • *Presentations and article critiques* • *Discussion*
11	29 May	Task Technology Fit • *Presentations and article critiques* • *Discussion*
12	6 June	The IS Discipline Reprised • *Presentations and article critiques* • *Discussion* • *Break-up function* **Due Friday 29 May:** Literature Review
W13-14		Test tba

INFO 401, Trimester 1, 2014