TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

School of Marketing & International Business

IBUS 430 RESEARCH PROJECT IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Trimester 2, 2014

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator:　　Dr Hongzhi Gao　　　　　　　　Telephone: (04) 463 6914
Rutherford House, RH 1125
Email: hongzhi.gao@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Administrator:　　Rebekah Sage　　　　　　　　　Telephone: (04) 463 5723
Rutherford House, RH 1121
Email: rebekah.sage@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00am – 4:30pm

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 3rd March – Tuesday 28th October

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 25th July 2014.

2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 26th 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

There are no formal classes scheduled for the course.

Course Delivery

Five informal seminars will be offered to help students gain a better understanding of the research process, and key requirements for completion of the research project. A seminar schedule is listed below. In addition, students MUST have regular contacts with assigned supervisors and seek supervisor advice proactively. Fortnightly meetings with supervisors to check the progress of the research can be a good arrangement; however, each student needs to discuss this with the supervisor, and make an individual arrangement. Each student has maximum 12 hours over two trimesters for scheduled meetings with the supervisor. Students should aim to send draft chapters or parts of the written work to supervisors for comments along the way they develop each part of the thesis (as negotiated with the supervisors).

Seminar Schedule 2014

Date	Time & Room		Led by
12 March	3.00pm-4.30pm; RH1113	Seminar 1: How to get your research project started	Hongzhi Gao
2 April	3.00pm-4.30pm; RH1113	Seminar 2: Grounding your 'intriguing' questions and 'smart' ideas in literature	Hongzhi Gao
21 May	3.00pm-4.30pm; RH1113	Seminar 3: Rigorous but practical research design and HEC application	Hongzhi Gao/Cheryl Rivers, School representative in the HEC committee
6 August	3.00pm-4.30pm; RH1113	Seminar 4: Discovering the 'gold nugget' in your data	Hongzhi Gao
24 September	3.00pm-4.30pm; RH1113	Seminar 5: Writing up and time management in the final phase of the research project	Hongzhi Gao

To assist students to gain additional feedback on their research from other staff members in the International Business programme, and also learn from other students' research experience, three presentations are scheduled over the two trimesters. The schedule for student presentations is shown below. Please note that all these three presentations are **compulsory**. We expect that all students deliver well-thought out and meaningful presentations, carefully reflect on the comments received after the presentations, and try to incorporate these comments into their work after consulting with the supervisors. Students **MUST** give these required presentations before their research projects are considered for examination.

Presentation Schedule 2014

Date	Time & Room	Presentation coverage
14 May	2.00pm-4.30pm; RH719	Research objectives, literature review, and conceptual development/solutions (or theory-guided research questions)
11 June	2.00pm-4.30pm; RH1113	Research design and its implications to the research inquiry
17 September	2.00pm-4.30pm; RH1113	Results, analysis and preliminary conclusions of the research topic

The format and specific requirements of each presentation will be provided at least one week before the presentation date.

Expected Workload
Students should devote approximately 300 hours to this course over the two trimesters.

Prescription
This is a supervised research project that provides students with the opportunity to undertake independent research in a specific area of international business. A variety of different types of research are encouraged, subject to the availability of a supervisor.

Course Learning Objectives
By the end of this course, students should be able to:
1. Produce independent research including setting initial research questions and forming conclusions;
2. Identify, plan, design and manage a significant research project (under supervision);
3. Apply appropriate methodology for the research;
4. Write up and present the research using the appropriate structure and format;
5. Make an original contribution to research in the field of international business.

Course Content
Students will complete an individual research project that combines learning from other courses in the Honours programme and individual research on a topic agreed with their supervisor. Students are expected to acquire expert knowledge in a chosen area of study and demonstrate scholarly and ethical behaviour when conducting and reporting their research. The research project must have a well-developed conceptual foundation and include a primary research component unless otherwise recommended by the supervisor and approved by the Course Coordinator.

Readings
Students will identify readings related to the chosen research topic, with guidance from their supervisors. The following readings provide excellent guidelines for writing a high quality research project.
1. Perry, C. 1998. A Structured Approach for Presenting Theses. *Australasian Marketing Journal (AMJ)*, 6(1): 63-85.
2. Uncles, M. 1998. A Structured Approach to the Presentation of Research Theses: Commentary. *Australasian Marketing Journal (AMJ)*, 6(1): 87-94.

Materials and Equipment
There is no standard list of materials and equipment. Students have access to an Honours grant of up to $500 for reimbursement of research-related expenses for the completion of the research project. Original receipts for approved expenses should be submitted to Jessie Johnston, the School Administrator. More information about this can be found in your Honours programme welcome folder.

Assessment
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-.

The final grade for IBUS 430 is solely based on the merit of the research project. A research project is normally 10,000-12,000 words in length but excluding references. It typically includes:

- Cover page (including the title, author's name and supervisor's name)
- Abstract (150 words)
- Introduction
- Literature review
- Research objectives/research questions/conceptual development (which may include hypotheses or propositions)
- Research methods
- Data analysis and results
- Discussion of the findings
- Conclusions
- Limitations and future research
- References
- Appendix (e.g. research information sheet, consent form, research instrument)

The body text of the research project should be in 12-point font, Times New Roman, 1.5 line spacing and single sided. The research project should have margins of least 2 cm and no more than 4 cm on the binding edge of the page. Students must follow the referencing style of the *Journal of International Business Studies*. Please refer to the journal (www.jibs.net) for specific style requirements.

Research Project Due Date

Each student is expected to submit a completed draft of his/her research project to the supervisor no later than **6 October 2014, 4pm**. This will allow time for the supervisor to provide sufficient feedback to your work, and then time for incorporating the feedback into the revisions. The deadline for the research project is on **28 October 2014, 4pm.** Two hard copies must be handed in at the School Reception on the 11th floor of Rutherford House. An electronic copy of the research project must be emailed to the Course Coordinator no later than **5pm** on the same day. Each research project will be assessed by two academic staff members, excluding the supervisor. The Course Coordinator may submit your research project to Turnitin to check academic integrity.

In order to submit the research project on time, the student should carefully plan each step of the research following the advice of the supervisor and a general time line as listed below.

Suggested Time Line

March	Finalise your research topic in agreement with your supervisor
April	Narrow down your topic to a specific research question and conduct preliminary literature review
May	Complete a full literature review and develop conceptual solutions for the research topic (which may include hypotheses, propositions, or theory-guided research questions)
June	Finalise research methodology; seek HEC approval (if applicable)
July	Collect data
August	Undertake data analysis
September	Write up the results, discussion and conclusions
October	Complete the first draft and revise the research project

Penalties
Late submission of the research project will not be accepted without good reason (e.g., a medical certificate) and prior permission. Five marks will be deducted (out of 100) for each day, or part day, that the research project is late. Late submission of the research project is likely to result in delayed reporting of the final results for the Honours degree.

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
In addition to obtaining an overall course mark of 50 or better, students must give three presentations as required in the section of Course Delivery.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Class Representative
A class representative for the Honours programme was already been elected in 1st Trimester. Name and details of this person were made available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinators and the students. They will be responsible for providing a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of the students.

Communication of Additional Information
Announcements will be made during class and on Blackboard. Please check both Blackboard and your registered email address with Blackboard regularly.

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.

<p align="center">************************</p>