

School of Information Management

INF0402 CURRENT ISSUES IN IS RESEARCH

Trimester 2 2014

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

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For appointments, please contact me by email to arrange a time.

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 14 July – Friday 17 October, 2014

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 25 July 2014.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is **Friday 26 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 class: Thursdays 9:30am – 12:20pm, in RWW 311.

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)

Course Schedule

INFO 402 – Classes		2014 / 2
Date	Topic	Notes
	Introduction	
17 July	IS research – past, present, future	No student seminars this week
	IS Research Methods	
24 July	New approaches	
	IS Research & Organisations	
31 July	Green IT	
7 Aug	Specialist IS: Health informatics	
14 Aug	Utilising ‘the crowd’	
21 Aug	Big data & business intelligence	Take home test 1 due: 29 August
Mid-Trimester Break		
11 Sept	Cloud computing	
18 Sept	Sociomateriality	
	IS Research & Society	
25 Sept	Online communities	Review assignment due: 24 September
2 Oct	Privacy	
9 Oct	e-Government	
16 Oct	Social media	Take home test 2 due: 24 October

Assessment Activities

(a) Article summaries and seminar leadership [Learning objectives: 1, 2, 3]

Each week, designated students will each submit a written overview of an assigned article. The overview will include:

- i) A descriptive summary of the main ideas of the paper (about 1.5 pages), and
- ii) 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 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.

(b) Seminar participation [Learning objectives: 1, 2, 3]

Class members must attend every class, read the week’s 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 (e.g. “I agree”) add little to the discussion and are not highly valued.

(c) Article review and editing assignment [Learning objectives: 1]

In this task class members demonstrate the progress made in their ability to evaluate academic articles (after INFOs 401 & 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 Wednesday, **24 September**.

(d) Take home tests [Learning objectives: 1, 2, 3]

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.

Due: Test 1 – Friday, **29 August**; Test 2 – Friday, **24 October**

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 classes: 36 hours (3 hours each for 12 sessions)

Reading material for each class and having unstructured discussions with classmates:

..... 84 hours (7 hours for each of 12 sessions)

Review and editing assignment: 10 hours

Preparing for and writing the take home tests: 20 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, seminar leadership, and participation.	30
Take home test 1	25
Take home test 2	25
Article review exercise	20

IMPORTANT NOTE: 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-.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

Student Feedback

Student feedback will be sought for aspects of both the teaching and the course. Student feedback forms will be distributed towards the end of the course.

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>