

School of Information Management

INFO 430
RESEARCH PROJECT IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Trimester Two 2014

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator:	Name	Associate Professor Val Hooper	
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Trimester Dates

Monday 14 July to Thursday 30 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 27 September 2013. 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

This course does not have regular classes. However class sessions may be scheduled from time to time by the course instructor. Students enrolled in this course, or participating in it in fulfilment of their commitment to other courses are required may be required to attend workshops or presentations at times to be finalised. Students will meet on a regular basis with the instructor to update on the progress of their project and to identify any needs for support. Students will present project proposals and end-of-project reports to SIM supervisory staff, faculty and to their classmates in sessions to be held near the end of the trimester (exact dates and times to be advised).

Course Content

This course requires students to complete an independent research project on an information systems topic and prepares them for entry into the MCom degree or PhD in Information Systems. Students conduct an individual information systems research project under the guidance of a supervisor.

Prescription

Research project on a selected topic in Information Systems.

Course Learning Objectives

On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify, clarify and investigate a research problem in information systems, (LG2, LG3)
2. Locate, analyse, and integrate relevant literature, (LG1)
3. Gather and analyse data, (LG2)
4. Present a coherent, well organised argument (written and oral) based on the above, (LG4, LG5)
5. Situate their research within an existing body of research literature. (LG1, LG3)

Course Delivery

Individual research

Guidelines for supervisors and students are available as a separate document.

Each student will be supervised by a suitably qualified member of SIM's teaching staff or PhD students. During the second trimester, regular progress meetings of about one hour will be set up by mutual agreement between the student and the supervisor. These should occur not less than every two weeks. Students are expected to provide tangible written evidence of progress according to the timeframe agreed with their supervisor. Students are also required to attend a mid-year progress report session that will be held in the months of July-August but no marks are involved for this activity.

Research involving human subjects will almost always require approval of the Human Ethics Committee. In cases where human subjects are not involved, and ethical clearance thus is not required, students are required to get their supervisor's formal written agreement to this before any data gathering is commenced. Where HEC clearance is required (most cases), students may not commence any data gathering until the clearance has been granted.

Expected Workload

Guidelines for the scope of the research and the number of references required are available in a separate document. It is expected that this course will require an average of 12-13 hours per week. However, the workload may vary from week to week, and will also vary depending on the characteristics of each individual project.

Readings and Other Materials

There are no set readings. An extensive reading program is required. This is unique to each student and will be agreed between the student and their supervisor. Students are expected to identify research literature relevant to their topic.

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-.

Course assessment will be based on:	Due Date
Project Presentation	10% Thursday 23 October 2014 (LG 1-5)
Feedback to a peer (meeting) Length: 1,000 – 1,500 words	10% Thursday 2 October 2014 (LG 1-5). (Tbc in first class)
Individual Research Project Length: 10,000 words	80% Thursday 30 October 2014 (LG 1-5)

All projects will address all five course learning objectives.

Each component will be graded by your supervisor and one other member of the SIM academic staff. The completed research project will be assessed on the following factors.

Problem identification
Statement of objectives and/or hypothesis Identification of boundary of study Motivation or “hook” for the research
Understanding of the literature
Review of current state of knowledge Organisation of literature review into appropriate themes Explanation of relevance to research objectives Establishment of research model, framework, hypotheses, propositions, or key constructs, and the contribution of research literature to the development of these constructs
Research methodology
Explanation of methodology Appropriate application of methodology Detailed research design appropriate to the topic
Results
Detailed description of the results achieved
Analysis/Discussion
Comparison and/or evaluation of results with reference to the insights gained from previous literature Discussion of the results with regard to the research question – were the results expected or unexpected, and why?
Conclusions/implications
Discussion of the conclusions and contribution of the research Implications for practice Ideas and implications for future research
Presentation
Communication is clear and concise Dissertation meets requirements for professional competency Accurate and complete citation and referencing
Overall Impact
Demonstrates an ability to conduct credible research

Penalties

Students who do not attend the scheduled presentation sessions will receive no marks. Late assignments will NOT be accepted. 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.

Mandatory Course Requirements

To pass the course, you must gain a minimum of 50% in the course 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

Communication of Additional Information

Notices relating to this course will be distributed via an INFO 430 email distribution list, or via Blackboard. Please keep the course co-ordinator and BCom (Hons) Director informed of any change in your preferred email address.

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.

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.
