

School of Information Management

INFO514: QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

Trimester 1, 2015

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator and Lecturer:

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Trimester Dates

From Monday 2nd March to 7th June 2015.

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 13th March 2015.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 15th 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 or [online](#).

Class Times and Room Numbers

Tuesdays from 4:00 – 7:00pm in RH 421 (Level 4 Rutherford House) (except module 2 which will be held 4:00 – 7.00pm on Wednesday 11th March).

Course Delivery

Weekly seminars

See "Class times and room numbers", above.

Expected Workload

To achieve satisfactory grades, you will need to spend at least 12.5 hours per week on INFO514, including time spent in class. Some aspects of the course will require less time, whereas others will require slightly more, depending on your previous knowledge of the topic. Before each session, please read the material for the week's topic and be ready to discuss the readings and other set work prepared for the class.

Prescription

An examination of qualitative research methods appropriate to advanced research

Course Learning Objectives

1. Critically assess the appropriateness of specific qualitative approaches for dealing with different types of research questions.
2. Demonstrate understanding of the steps required to: select cases or sites for analysis; prepare a data collection plan; collect data; code data; validate codes; analyse qualitative data; report results.
3. Design a research project that uses a qualitative methodology (case study, grounded theory, ethnography, action research or archival data analysis).

Course Content

| Week | Date | Topic | Lecturer |
|------|-------------|--|----------|
| 1 | 03/03/2015 | Qualitative research approaches | AG |
| 2 | 11/03/2015* | Case study research | GO |
| 3 | 17/03/2015 | Grounded theory | HL |
| 4 | 24/03/2015 | Interviews | JC |
| 5 | 31/03/2015 | Coding interviews | JC |
| | | | |
| 6 | 21/04/2015 | Action Research | PY |
| 7 | 28/04/2015 | Sensemaking methodology | DJ |
| 8 | 05/05/2015 | Historical research and documentary analysis | JT |
| 9 | 12/05/2015 | Focus groups and the Delphi technique | DJ |
| 10 | 19/05/2015 | Observation methods | AG |
| 11 | 26/05/2015 | Critical incident | DJ |
| 12 | 02/06/2015 | Writing up qualitative research | AG |

* NB: Please note that the class for Module 2 – Case Study Research will be held on **Wednesday 11th March**

Readings

List of required readings for each week's class will be available from Blackboard.

Assessment

The Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>.

| Assignment | Word count | Due | Value | CLOs addressed |
|---|------------|------------|-------|----------------|
| Review of a qualitative paper | 1500 max | 22/03/2015 | 20% | 1&2 |
| Conduct a small project (trial) involving qualitative data collection and analysis and writing-up the results | 1500 max | 26/04/2015 | 30% | 1-3 |
| A draft research proposal, emphasising how a qualitative approach could be used to investigate the topic | 2000 max | 07/06/2015 | 50% | 1-3 |

Penalties

Late assignments Assignments submitted after they are due will have a 10% penalty imposed unless an extension has been granted by the course coordinator. Assignments submitted more than one week after they are due will not be accepted unless there are exceptional circumstances and the late submission has the prior approval of the course coordinator.

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

To fulfil the mandatory course requirements for this course, you must complete all of the assignments in the required timeframe.

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

Further details about the course, and additional information, will be made available through Blackboard.

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.
