

School of Information Management

**INFO 333 – Ethical and Cultural Issues in IS**

Trimester 1, 2016

**COURSE OUTLINE**

---

**Prescription**

This course provides an appreciation of the philosophical underpinnings of business ethics, and examines how contemporary legal and ethical issues involving the use of information technology can impact upon individuals, organisations and society. The course also introduces the use of research tools and skills for developing an argument.

**Names and Contact Details**

	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>Office Hours</b>
Course Coordinator & Lecturer	David Johnstone	<a href="mailto:david.johnstone@vuw.ac.nz">david.johnstone@vuw.ac.nz</a> Phone: (04) 463 5877	RH531	By appointment via email
Lecturer	Tony Hooper	<a href="mailto:tony.hooper@vuw.ac.nz">tony.hooper@vuw.ac.nz</a> Phone: (04) 463-5015	RH511	By appointment via email
SIM Undergraduate Support Team	Anette Klaassen Duncan Inkster	<a href="mailto:simstudents@vuw.ac.nz">simstudents@vuw.ac.nz</a> 04 463 6998	RH521	Mon-Fri 10am-4pm or by appointment

**Course Information**

Credits: 15 points

Pre-requisite: 30 x 200-level INFO or COMP/NWEN/SWEN points

Lectures: Mondays, 9:30 – 11:20, in RHLT2 (Rutherford House)

Teaching Period: Monday, 29 Feb – Friday, 3 June, 2016

**Withdrawal from Course**

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday, 11 March, 2016.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is **Friday, 13 May, 2016**. 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](#).

**Readings**

There is no textbook for this course. Materials for assessments and other purposes will be posted or linked as required on Blackboard, though some material may be handed out in class.

## Course Delivery

Course delivery is based around lectures, class discussions, tutorial discussions, and material presented through Blackboard.

Note there will also be a 3-hour workshop, held on a Saturday morning (date yet to be determined), run by staff from the University Law Library, on the process of creating legislation in New Zealand.

Student Learning Support Services (SLSS) will be running two 1-hour workshops on (1) the use of research tools; and (2) developing a written argument in a structured format. These workshops will occur during class time.

## Tutorial Sign-up

Sign up via **myAllocator**: <https://student-sa.victoria.ac.nz/>.

## Course Schedule

INFO 333 – Classes			2016 / T1	
Date	Topic		SPAs	Notes
29 Feb	Course overview. Introduction to ethical concepts	DJ		
7 Mar	Ethical analysis – 1; Equity, access & work	DJ	SPA-1	Tutorial 1
14 Mar	Ethical analysis – 2; Community & identity	DJ		
21 Mar	WORKSHOP 1 (Research tools); Privacy – 1	SLSS DJ	SPA-2	Tutorial 2
<b><u>Mid-Trimester Break (Part 1)</u></b>				
4 Apr	Privacy – 2	DJ		
11 Apr	Whistleblowing	DJ	SPA-3	Tutorial 3
18 Apr	Professional ethics	DJ		
<b><u>Mid-Trimester Break (Part 2)</u></b>				
2 May	WORKSHOP 2 (Writing & developing an argument Computer & internet crime)	SLSS DJ	SPA-4	Tutorial 4
9 May	Regulation & legislation	TH		
16 May	Intellectual Property & data ownership	TH	SPA-5	Tutorial 5
23 May	Contract law & IT – 1	TH		
30 May	Contract law & IT – 2	TH	SPA-6	Tutorial 6

## Course Learning Objectives

On completion of this course, students will be able to:

- a. Criticise the theoretical and philosophical basis of business ethics;
- b. Evaluate the impact on organisations and society of various non-ethical behaviours;
- c. Use the basic tools of research in information systems; and
- d. Communicate ethical and legal implications to stakeholders.

## Assessment Activities

### (a) Session Preparation Assignments (SPAs)

Each fortnight, students will be provided with topics outlining ethical and legal issues – often based on recent events. Students will be asked specific questions about the topic, and answers will be submitted to Blackboard by 5pm on the Sunday before the class on Monday. The SPA topics and questions will form the basis for discussion during the tutorials.

### (b) Essay

Students will be provided with a list of topics, drawn from course material, and asked to write an essay based on a topic from the list. The essay will require the use of the research tools covered in class, including the use of online academic database searches, and APA referencing. The essay will have a maximum word count of 3000 words (excluding the Reference List).

Assessed item	Due	%	Learning Objectives
Session Preparation Assignments (6 written assignments x 10%)	Sunday, 5pm before the tutorials for that week	60	a, b, d
Essay	Sunday, 5pm, 5 June	40	a, b, c, d

If you cannot complete an assignment, refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)

The Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>.

### Penalties

The penalty for late submission of work without a prior extension arrangement is a reduction of 10% of the available marks each calendar day, starting from the due date and time, up to 5 days after the due date. At the course coordinator's discretion, work handed in after 5 days may be assessed and feedback provided, but no grade will be assigned.

### Extensions

Personal extensions are granted only in special circumstances and supporting evidence such as a medical certificate may be requested by the course coordinator or SIM undergraduate support team.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The SPA assignments must be submitted on time or else they will not be marked. Late submissions are not possible, because the solutions will be discussed in tutorials that week.

### 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.

### 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 VBS programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

## **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: ..... 24 hours (2 hours each for 12 sessions)  
Tutorials & workshops: ..... 9 hours  
Preparing SPAs: ..... 36 hours (6 hours each for 6 SPAs)  
Preparing and writing the essay: ..... 60 hours  
General reading, study and class preparation: ..... 21 hours

## **Student Feedback**

Note that this a new course, and consequently no student feedback from past courses is available.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at:

[www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php)

## **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 communication devices for this course.

## **Link to General Information**

For general information about course-related matters, go to

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information>

\*\*\*\*\*