INFS5740
BUSINESS SYSTEMS PROJECT

Course Outline
Semester 2, 2013

Part A: Course-Specific Information

Please consult Part B for key information on ASB policies (including those on plagiarism and special consideration), student responsibilities and student support services.

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PART A: COURSE-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1 STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Lecturer-in-charge: Dr Farhad Daneshgar
Room 2106 QUAD
Phone No: 9385 4241
Email: f.daneshgar@unsw.edu.au
Consultation Times – by appointment

2 COURSE DETAILS

2.1 Teaching Times and Locations

Lectures start in Week 1 (to Week 13): The Time and Location are:
QUAD 2055 Level 2 (South Wing) Tuesdays 13:00-15:00.

2.2 Units of Credit

The course is worth 6 units of credit.
There is no parallel teaching in this course.

2.3 Summary of Course

This is a capstone course offering each student the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of the theory and practice of information systems management by applying the knowledge and skills gained in the Master of Information Systems (MIS) program to a project of the student's choice. This is done by completing a project report reflecting the cumulative knowledge gained from these experiences. Ideally this course should be completed in the last session of the MIS program. This course is focused on developing practical research skills for use in organisational settings.

2.4 Course Aims and Relationship to Other Courses

The capstone project and report is the culmination of your MIS program. This capstone project provides the following benefits:

- Doing the capstone project serves to integrate and apply approaches and knowledge learned in many separate courses. You have studied many topics during your graduate education and you also know that such knowledge is emerging faster than many other fields. Active use and integration of the ideas and methods studied brings knowledge closer to the emerging world of professional practice you are working in (or for).
- The capstone project bridges the gap between coursework and professional practice in other ways as well. You will make key choices of project definition and execution. The capstone project and report is a great opportunity to exercise your judgment and to pursue your interests.

2.5 Student Learning Outcomes

After studying this course, you will be able to:

1. Apply IS discipline knowledge to a relevant information systems management issue.
2. Demonstrate how to investigate and document the current state of (emerging) knowledge, both practical and academic, of a contemporary management problem in IT.
3. Conduct and manage a project which investigates a contemporary IT management problem within a business context.
4. Produce a report that demonstrates critical thought, exhibits a level of analysis appropriate to a management issue, and demonstrates proficiency in information systems management.
5. Develop and deliver a presentation regarding your project.

ASB Postgraduate Coursework Program Learning Goals and Outcomes

1. Knowledge: Our graduates will have current disciplinary or interdisciplinary knowledge applicable in local and global contexts.
You should be able to identify and apply current knowledge of disciplinary or interdisciplinary theory and professional practice to business in local and global environments.

2. Critical thinking and problem solving: Our graduates will have critical thinking and problem solving skills applicable to business and management practice or issues.
You should be able to identify, research and analyse complex issues and problems in business and/or management, and propose appropriate and well-justified solutions.

3. Communication: Our graduates will be effective communicators in professional contexts.
You should be able to:
  a. Produce written documents that communicate complex disciplinary ideas and information effectively for the intended audience and purpose, and
  b. Produce oral presentations that communicate complex disciplinary ideas and information effectively for the intended audience and purpose.

4. Teamwork: Our graduates will be effective team participants.
You should be able to participate collaboratively and responsibly in teams, and reflect on your own teamwork, and on the team's processes and ability to achieve outcomes.

5. Ethical, social and environmental responsibility: Our graduates will have a sound awareness of ethical, social, cultural and environmental implications of business issues and practice.
You should be able to:
  a. Identify and assess ethical, environmental and/or sustainability considerations in business decision-making and practice, and
  b. Consider social and cultural implications of business and /or management practice.

6. Leadership: Our graduates will have an understanding of effective leadership. (MBA and MBT programs only).
You should be able to reflect on your personal leadership experience, and on the capabilities necessary for leadership.

For more information on the Postgraduate Coursework Program Learning Goals and Outcomes, see Part B of the course outline.

The following table shows how your Course Learning Outcomes relate to the overall Program Learning Goals and Outcomes, and indicates where these are assessed (they may also be developed in tutorials and other activities):

Program Learning Goals and Outcomes		Course Learning Outcomes	Course Assessment Item
This course helps you to achieve the following learning goals for all ASB postgraduate coursework students:		*On successful completion of the course, you should be able to:*	*This learning outcome will be assessed in the following items:*
1	Knowledge	Explain basics of industry and academic research methodologies and associated methods for data collection and analysis. Understand major activities involved in an IS research project including literature review, conceptualisation, theorising and presentation of the results. Understand basics of managing research projects. Develop an IS research project.	• Project Report • Presentation
2	Critical thinking and problem solving	Developing skills for critical review of the literature. Understanding standard evaluation methods for assessing various attributes of a research project. Developing a rational argument for the results obtained, and addressing strengths and weaknesses of the research project undertaken.	• Project Report • Presentation
3a	Written communication	Construct written work which is logically and professionally presented.	• Project Report
3b	Oral communication	Communicate ideas in a succinct and clear manner.	• Presentation • Participation in other students' presentations
4	Teamwork	(Not specifically assessed)	
5a.	Ethical, environmental and sustainability responsibility	Identify and assess ethical, environmental and sustainability considerations of the IS project undertaken	• Project Report
5b.	Social and cultural awareness	Addressing social and cultural implications of the IS project undertaken. Addressing social and cultural effects on the results of the research project undertaken.	• Project Report

3 LEARNING AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES

3.1 Approach to Learning and Teaching in the Course

INFS5740 course involves creation and submission of a project report about an IS/IT management related topic of your choice. The report must demonstrate critical thought and exhibit a level of analysis appropriate to a Master's degree, and display a high level of professionalism and competence in presentation. In undertaking this research project you will:

- Develop an in-depth knowledge into specific area of IS/IT management
- Develop and apply research and critical skills.
- Develop and apply your writing and oral communication skills.
- Develop an appreciation of ethical, social, and environmental implications of your research.
- Develop your management skills

Completion of the course will involve a presentation of the key findings of your project.

3.2 Learning Activities and Teaching Strategies

INFS5740 does not have any seminars or tutorials but instead involves various meetings throughout the session with the course co-ordinator at which you will discuss your progress towards the completion of your project, and will receive feedback. At these meetings you will also discuss your topic area with your fellow students.

At the start of the course it is expected that we will meet each week, until you have established your topic in week 3. After that we will meet once a fortnight.

The course co-ordinator is here to help you complete your project. He will assist you in:

- the selection of your topic
- the sourcing and selection of appropriate literature,
- the structure and format of the report
- refining and finalising your report
- completion of the research report
- providing guidance as to the quality of the reports structure
- writing and the depth of research required

4 ASSESSMENT

4.1 Formal Requirements

To receive a pass grade in this course, you must meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Attain an overall mark of at least 50%.
- Attend at least 80% of all scheduled meetings and all student presentations.
- Attain a satisfactory performance in each component of the course. A mark of 45 per cent or higher is normally regarded as satisfactory.

The School reserves the right to scale final marks to a mean of 60%.

4.2   Assessment Details

Assessment Task	Weight %	Due Date
Project Report	85	Beginning of Week 12
Presentation	10	During Week 12 session
Participation in other students' presentations	5	During Week 12 session
TOTAL	100	No Final Exam for this course

Project Report

The project report sets out the details of the project you undertake. The project is of your choosing, but needs to be negotiated with the course coordinator for scope, rigor, and other issues. Where possible, the project should investigate how your organization is addressing a current IT management related problem or taking advantage of a new technology.

The specific focus of your project and the structure of your report are to be finalised with the assistance of the course coordinator. Sample report structures will be available on the course website.

You are required to set out the topic of your project by Thursday of Week 3 and submit a 2-page project proposal.

Value:
- Your report is worth 85% of your course assessment.

Due Date & Lodgement:
- Proposal: Friday 16th of August 2013 (end of Week 3), submitted via email (f.daneshgar@unsw.edu.au)
- Final Report: Monday 21 October (Week 12), submitted by hand to the lecturer in Quad room 2106 prior to the start of presentations on Tuesday.

Mode:
- To be undertaken individually.

Requirements:
- Undertake an investigation of key IS/IT management issues in an area of your choosing
- Write a report on a business information systems / technology related topic of your choice, which provides an overview of the current state of knowledge regarding that topic and then pursues that topic in a manner as agreed with the course co-ordinator.

Sources of Information:
- Access to academic and practitioner papers/journals and papers in data bases accessible from the UNSW library web site. The databases of most use are ABI/Inform, IEEExplore and Science Direct.

Length:
- The word length of the assignment is 7,000 – 8,000 words
- Note that coversheet details, bibliography, tables and any appendices you may care to attach are excluded from the word count.

Format:
- The report should be in the format of a business report and of a standard suitable to be read by senior management.
- Feel free to make whatever use of tables, figures and diagrams that you believe appropriate.

Referencing & Bibliography:
- You are expected to make use of the academic and practitioner literature in completing this assignment.
- The method for citing references is "Harvard". If you are unfamiliar with Harvard then consult the FCE Harvard Referencing Guide at: http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/onlib/ref.htmlUsing
- Using a citation method other than Harvard referencing will result in a penalty.
- A bibliography must be included. The bibliography is not included in the word count for your assignment. Your bibliography must reference all websites used in the assignment.

Presentation
Each student will make a presentation to the entire class of no more than 15 minutes, plus another 5 minutes for answering the questions from the audience. Presentations are held during week 12 session.

Value:
- Your presentation is worth 10% of your course assessment.

Due Date & Lodgement:
- Presentations will be undertaken in a specially convened seminar during Week 12.

Mode:
- To be undertaken individually.

Requirements:
- Develop and deliver a presentation on the key aspects of your project.

Guidance on delivering effective presentations will be provided by the course coordinator.

Participation in other students' presentation
Each student will participate in other students' presentations during week 12 by raising relevant questions and/or providing comments on various aspects of the presentation.

Value:
- Your participation is worth 5% of your course assessment.

Mode:
- To be undertaken individually or through discussions.

Requirements:

- Develop an understanding of the key aspects of other presentations as a precursor to providing a critical reflection of those presentations.

4.3   Late Submission of Assignments and Extensions

The late submission of the project report carries a penalty of 10% of the maximum marks for that assignment per day of lateness (including weekends and public holidays) unless an extension of time has been granted. This will also result in a zero 'Presentation' mark if you are not able to publicly present your project during Week 12. An extension of time to complete an assignment may be granted by the course co-ordinator in case of misadventure or illness. Applications for an extension of time should be made to the course co-ordinator by email. You will be required to substantiate your application with appropriate documentary evidence such as medical certificates, accident reports etc. Please note that work commitments and computer failures are usually consider insufficient grounds for an extension.

Quality Assurance

The ASB is actively monitoring student learning and quality of the student experience in all its programs. A random selection of completed assessment tasks may be used for quality assurance, such as to determine the extent to which program learning goals are being achieved. The information is required for accreditation purposes, and aggregated findings will be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of ASB programs. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential.

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5   COURSE RESOURCES

Course Website
The course website is hosted on Blackboard, which you can access via https://my.unsw.edu.au.

You will have access to the course website once you have enrolled in the course. The course website contains the study guides, assignment/report details, announcements and other information about the course.

Textbook
There is no textbook for INFS5740.

6   COURSE EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the School and continual improvements are made based on this feedback. UNSW's Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) Process is one of the ways in which student evaluative feedback is gathered. In this course, we will seek your feedback through the end of semester CATEI evaluations.

7 COURSE SCHEDULE

A schedule of work will be determined for each student upon consultation with the course coordinator

LECTURE SCHEDULE		
Week starting	**Meetings**	**Deliverables**
1 29 July	Discussion on the course, expectations, deliverables, and assessment	
2 5 August	Class discusses individual projects and preparation of the project proposal for the next week	
3 12 August	Finalisation of individual student projects	**Formal project proposal (by Friday)**
5 26 August	Coordinator's feedback on individual project proposals' scope, rigor, and criteria for assessment of individual projects	
7 9 September	Open discussion on progress of individual reports	
9 23 September	Open discussion on progress of individual reports	
Mid-session Recess Saturday 28th September – Monday 7 October 2013		
11 14 October	Open discussion on progress of individual reports	**Final project**
12 21 October	Students presentation	