INFS5740
BUSINESS SYSTEMS PROJECT

Course Outline
Semester 2, 2015

Part A: Course-Specific Information

Please consult Part B for key information on Business School policies (including those on plagiarism and special consideration), student responsibilities and student support services.
# Table of Contents

## Part A: Course-Specific Information

1. Staff Contact Details .......................................................... 1
2. Course Details ......................................................................... 1

### 2. Course Details

2.1 Teaching Times and Locations ................................. 1
2.2 Units of Credit ................................................................. 1
2.3 Summary of Course ............................................................ 1
2.4 Course Aims and Relationship to Other Courses .......... 1
2.5 Student Learning Outcomes ............................................ 1

## 3. Learning and Teaching Activities .............................. 4

3.1 Approach to Learning and Teaching in the Course .......... 4
3.2 Learning Activities and Teaching Strategies ................. 4

## 4. Assessment ...................................................................... 4

4.1 Formal Requirements ......................................................... 4
4.2 Assessment Details ............................................................ 5
4.3 Late Submission ............................................................... 6

## 5. Course Resources ........................................................... 7

## 6. Course Evaluation and Development .......................... 7

## 7. Course Schedule ............................................................. 7
PART A: COURSE-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1 STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecturer-in-charge</td>
<td>Dr Farhad Daneshgar</td>
<td><a href="mailto:f.daneshgar@unsw.edu.au">f.daneshgar@unsw.edu.au</a></td>
<td>QUAD 2106</td>
<td>9385 4241</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The best way to contact Farhad is via email. Please note that only your UNSW email account will be used for formal notices and correspondence regarding the course. If you need to contact the School urgently you can contact the School Office on 9385 5320 or email istm@unsw.edu.au.

2 COURSE DETAILS

2.1 Teaching Times and Locations
There is no formal lectures for this course. Throughout the semester various meetings will be scheduled with the lecturer in his office. Details of these meetings will be announced in week 1.

2.2 Units of Credit
INFS5740 is worth 6 units of credit.

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 associated 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
By the end of this course, you should be able to achieve the following learning outcomes:

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 an ethical and socially responsible academic 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.

The Course Learning Outcomes are what you should be able to DO by the end of this course if you participate fully in learning activities and successfully complete the assessment items.

The Learning Outcomes in this course also help you to achieve some of the overall Program Learning Goals and Outcomes for all undergraduate students in the Business School. Program Learning Goals are what we want you to BE or HAVE by the time you successfully complete your degree (e.g. 'be an effective team player'). You demonstrate this by achieving specific Program Learning Outcomes – what you are able to DO by the end of your degree (e.g. 'participate collaboratively and responsibly in teams').

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Postgraduate Coursework Program Learning Goals and Outcomes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Knowledge:</strong> Our graduates will have current disciplinary or interdisciplinary knowledge applicable in local and global contexts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2. Critical thinking and problem solving:</strong> Our graduates will have critical thinking and problem solving skills applicable to business and management practice or issues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3. Communication:</strong> Our graduates will be effective communicators in professional contexts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You should be able to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Produce written documents that communicate complex disciplinary ideas and information effectively for the intended audience and purpose, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Produce oral presentations that communicate complex disciplinary ideas and information effectively for the intended audience and purpose.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4. Teamwork:</strong> Our graduates will be effective team participants.</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. Ethical, social and environmental responsibility:</strong> Our graduates will have a sound awareness of ethical, social, cultural and environmental implications of business issues and practice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You should be able to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Identify and assess ethical, environmental and/or sustainability considerations in business decision-making and practice, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Consider social and cultural implications of business and/or management practice.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

This course helps you to achieve the following learning goals for all Business undergraduate students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Course Assessment Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

On successful completion of the course, you should be able to:

This learning outcome will be assessed in the following items:

1. **Knowledge**
   - Apply IS discipline knowledge to a relevant information systems management issue.
   - Demonstrate how to investigate and document the current state of (emerging) knowledge, both practical and academic, of a contemporary management problem in IT.
   - Conduct and manage a project which investigates a contemporary IT management problem within a business context.
   - Produce an ethical and socially responsible academic report that demonstrates critical thought, exhibits a level of analysis appropriate to a management issue, and demonstrates proficiency in information systems management.

   - Project Report
   - Presentation

2. **Critical thinking and problem solving**
   - Produce an ethical and socially responsible academic report that demonstrates critical thought, exhibits a level of analysis appropriate to a management issue, and demonstrates proficiency in information systems management.

   - Project Report

3a. **Written communication**
   - Produce an ethical and socially responsible academic report that demonstrates critical thought, exhibits a level of analysis appropriate to a management issue, and demonstrates proficiency in information systems management.

   - Project Report

3b. **Oral communication**
   - Develop and deliver a presentation regarding your project.

   - Presentation

5a. **Ethical, social and environmental responsibility**
   - Produce an ethical and socially responsible academic report that demonstrates critical thought, exhibits a level of analysis appropriate to a management issue, and demonstrates proficiency in information systems management.

   - Project Report

5b. **Social and cultural awareness**
   - Produce an ethical and socially responsible academic report that demonstrates critical thought, exhibits a level of analysis appropriate to a management issue, and demonstrates proficiency in information systems management.

   - Project Report
3  LEARNING AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES

3.1  Approach to Learning and Teaching in the Course
INFS5740 involves creation and submission of a project report about an IS/IT management related topic of student's 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
Except for the first week, the INFS5740 does not have any seminars or tutorials and instead informal meetings will be scheduled either for all students or for individuals, depending on their specific needs. In addition, a student may also request individual meeting with the lecturer throughout the session during which the student’s progress towards the completion of the project will be discussed, and the student will receive feedback.

The lecturer is here to help you to 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 all scheduled 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Task</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Report</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>Developed through w2-w12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>During Week 13 session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in other students' presentations</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>During Week 13 session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>No Final Exam for this course</td>
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</table>

**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 lecturer for scope, rigor, and other issues. Where possible, the project should investigate how the selected organization is addressing a current IT management related problem or taking advantage of a new technology. The Discussion Forum of the course website will be used extensively for both individual and group discussions with the lecturer. Formal project planning will be carried out for the management of the project.

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

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

**Value:**
- Your report, that is worth 85% of your course assessment and is decided on the basis of regular progress report, and the final project plan.

**Due Date & Lodgement:**
- Proposal: TBA; submitted via email (f.daneshgar@unsw.edu.au)
- Final Report: TBA; submitted by hand to the lecturer in Quad room 2106 prior to the start of presentations time.

**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 Business School Harvard Referencing Guide at: [https://student.unsw.edu.au/harvard-referencing](https://student.unsw.edu.au/harvard-referencing).
• 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 an oral presentation to the entire class of no more than 20 minutes, plus another 5-10 minutes for answering the questions. Presentations are held during week 13.

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

**Due Date & Lodgement:**
• Presentations will be undertaken in a specially convened seminar during Week 13.

**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 13 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**
The late submission of the project report carries a penalty of 10% of the maximum marks for the written report per day of lateness (including weekends and public holidays) unless an extension of time has been granted by the lecturer. 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 Business School 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 Business School programs. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential.

5 COURSE RESOURCES
The main resource for the course is the course website and some useful links on the website including a link to a research handbook as a reference only.

The website for this course is on Moodle at:
http://moodle.telt.unsw.edu.au

There is no recommended textbook for this course.

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 (http://www.unsw.edu.au/learning/pve/catei.html) is one of the ways in which student evaluative feedback is gathered. The School also solicits feedback from students during the session. Significant changes to courses and programs within the School are communicated to subsequent cohorts of students.

Improvements for this session (based on student feedback and other sources of information) include an increase in the number of guest lecturers to assist students in understanding "real world" relevance and application of course materials. Please feel free to communicate your views/suggestions to the course coordinator.

7 COURSE SCHEDULE
The LiC will be in contact with you in the beginning of the session to discuss regularly meetings. Attendance of the week 13 presentation is compulsory.