Unit Outline*

INMT8506 / INMT8821 / INMT7421

Information Management Research

Semester 1, 2011
Crawley

Associate Professor Nick Letch

Business School
www.business.uwa.edu.au

* This Unit Outline should be read in conjunction with the Business School Unit Outline Supplement available on the Current Students web site http://www.business.uwa.edu.au/students
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UNIT DESCRIPTION

Introduction
Welcome to Information Management Research. This unit introduces students to critical and emerging issues in Information Management. Through an examination of the foundations of different approaches to understanding information systems, students are given the opportunity to develop abilities in understanding the impact and consequences of applications of information technology in organisations.

Unit content
Theory in Information Systems Research; Alternative IS research methodologies; IS research frameworks.

The goal of the unit
The goal of this unit is to provide students with a foundation in the major theories and frameworks that have developed and/or are applied when researching in the information systems discipline. This background will enable students to critically assess published research in the field and appreciate the range of issues and approaches in conducting research.

Learning outcomes
On completion of this unit, you should be able to:
1. Critically assess emerging issues in organisational information and information systems management.
2. Appreciate the range of theoretical perspectives impacting research into the use of IT within organisations.
3. Understand the breadth and extent of IT/IS impact on organisations.
4. Determine appropriate methods for researching aspects of information management.
5. Prepare for research into an aspect of information management.
6. Critique published research in information systems.

Educational principles and graduate attributes
In this unit, you will be encouraged and facilitated to develop the ability and desire to:
1. Critically evaluate the role of emerging information technologies in organisations.
2. Develop your ability to communicate IT related issues through facilitation of assigned reading.
3. Develop independent learning and time management through investigating the literature on a topic of your choice.
TEACHING AND LEARNING RESPONSIBILITIES

Teaching and learning strategies

This unit aims to provide you with a foundation in understanding the roles and impacts of information and communication technologies in organisations by examining theories and approaches to IT research as presented in the academic literature. As such, the unit requires students to read and comprehend academic research papers which at times may appear daunting and impenetrable. While the unit does demand independent study by students, the unit is designed so that key concepts and issues are signposted for students.

Teaching in the unit will consist of a lecture topic followed by discussion of a research article drawn from international academic journals and conferences. Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings and come to class prepared to ask questions and participate in all discussions. Through this approach you will learn to identify the key elements of research papers and be in a position to critically analyse information systems issues and their potential impact.

Teaching and learning evaluation

You may be asked to complete two evaluations during this unit. The Student Perception of Teaching (SPOT) and the Students’ Unit Reflective Feedback (SURF). The SPOT is optional and is an evaluation of the lecturer and the unit. The SURF is completed online and is a university wide survey and deals only with the unit. You will receive an email from the SURF office inviting you to complete the SURF when it is activated. We encourage you to complete the forms as your feedback is extremely important and can be used to make changes to the unit or lecturing style when appropriate.

Attendance

Participation in class, whether it be listening to a lecture or getting involved in other activities, is an important part of the learning process, therefore it is important that you attend classes. More formally, the University regulations state that ‘to complete a course or unit students shall attend prescribed classes, lectures, seminars and tutorials’. Where a student, due to exceptional circumstances, is unable to attend a scheduled class, they are required to obtain prior approval of the unit coordinator to be absent from that class. Any student consistently absent from class without having had such absence approved by the unit coordinator may be referred to the faculty for advice and may be required to withdraw from the unit.
We strongly advise students to regularly access their student email accounts. Important information regarding the unit is often communicated by email and will not be automatically forwarded to private email addresses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit coordinator/lecturer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name:</strong></td>
<td>Associate Professor Nick Letch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Email:</strong></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Nick.letch@uwa.edu.au">Nick.letch@uwa.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phone:</strong></td>
<td>6488 3741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consultation hours:</strong></td>
<td>Available most days by appointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lecture times:</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday 5.00pm – 8.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lecture venue:</strong></td>
<td>BUSN:163</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About your lecturer, Nick Letch

Nick Letch is an Associate Professor at the UWA Business School where he teaches and researches in the field of Business Information Systems. His PhD thesis investigated public sector information systems and in particular their support for citizen-administration relationships. He has published and presented his research in a range of national and international forums on topics such as e-Government, socio-technical networks, knowledge management, online social networks, and the digital divide. He has also provided consultancy services to government and private sector organisations in areas such as database design and development, information systems evaluation and information systems management and governance.

TEXTBOOK(S) AND RESOURCES

Unit website

http://www.webct.uwa.edu.au

Most materials for this unit will be accessible from the unit website.

Recommended/required text(s)

There is no required text for this unit but a collection of core readings in the unit are available for purchase from the University bookshop. Research articles for discussion and analysis will be made available during class.
Core Readings


Software requirements

No Specialist software is required.
# UNIT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Seminar Topic</th>
<th>Core Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 March</td>
<td>Introduction to the unit – The Nature of the Discipline</td>
<td>Nevo, Nevo &amp; Ein-Dor (2009)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gregor (2006)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Orlikowski and Iacono (2001)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Interpretive research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>30 March</td>
<td>IS Success Models Technology Acceptance Model</td>
<td>Benbaset &amp; Barki (2007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>6 April</td>
<td>Structuratuion Theory</td>
<td>Jones &amp; Karsten (2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>13 April</td>
<td>Revise Weeks 1-5</td>
<td>Preliminary discussion of research topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>20 April</td>
<td>Virtual Class – Review questions 1 preparation</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27 April</td>
<td>Study Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>4 May</td>
<td>Social Shaping Approaches – Actor-Network Theory</td>
<td>Walsham (1997)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>11 May</td>
<td>Social Network Analysis</td>
<td>Zack (2000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>18 May</td>
<td>Hybrid Theories / Sociomateriality / Review</td>
<td>Orlikowski (2007)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>25 May</td>
<td>Literature Review Presentations</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>1 June</td>
<td>Virtual Class – Review questions 2 preparation</td>
<td>-</td>
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# ASSESSMENT MECHANISM

**The purpose of assessment**

There are a number of reasons for having assessable tasks as part of an academic program. The assessable tasks are designed to encourage you to explore and understand the subject more fully. The fact that we grade your work provides you an indication of how much you have achieved. Providing feedback on your work also serves as part of the learning process.
### Assessment mechanism summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Weight (%)</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes Addressed</th>
<th>Educational Principles Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion article</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15th April (weeks 3-6)</td>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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| {
| critical abstracts       |            | 27th May 2010 (weeks 7, 9-11)   |                            |                                  |
| Discussion Facilitation   | 10         | As assigned                     | 1,6                        | 2                                |
| *Assignment 1: Review     | 15         | 21st April 2010                 | 1-5                        | 1                                |
| Question Weeks 1-5        |            |                                 |                            |                                  |
| *Assignment 2: Review     | 15         | 2nd June 2010                   | 1-5                        | 1                                |
| Questions Week 7-12       |            |                                 |                            |                                  |
| Research Proposal         | 30         | 3rd June 2010                   | 1,5,6                      | 3                                |

**Note 1:** Results may be subject to scaling and standardisation under faculty policy and are not necessarily the sum of the component parts.

**Note 2:** Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning outcomes as required for accreditation and audit purposes. The findings may 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, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the unit.

### Assessment components

**Seminar Participation (10%)**

You are required to participate actively in the seminars - especially in the interactive discussions of assigned readings. You will also be assessed on evidence of your general preparation (keeping up with relevant readings and demonstrating knowledge of the ‘theory’ underlying a particular topic and ability to contribute to class discussion. You can provide evidence of your preparation by coming to class with 3-5 questions regarding the discussion article.

The marking criteria for this assessment component can be viewed on the WebCT grading form.

**Discussion article “critical abstract” and questions (20%)**

In addition to the core readings, each week an article of a completed research will be assigned for discussion. Discussion articles will be allocated during the first weeks of semester. All students need to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned article. Following the seminar you need to prepare a “critical abstract” of the article of no more than 750 words. The abstract should not merely be a rewrite or paraphrase of the article author’s abstract but in your own words you should identify the key issues raised and analyse the content and contribution of the article. Further advice and the marking criteria for this assessment is available from the WebCT site.

**Discussion Facilitation (10%)**

Each week, one or two students will facilitate class discussion of the assigned research article. It should be assumed by the assigned facilitators that all class members will have read the article and are prepared to participate in the discussion. Facilitators should briefly summarise the key points and issues raised in the article and develop an activity which will involve all class members in the discussion. The extent of the discussion will vary depending on the content of the paper but facilitators should plan for the entire session to take approximately 30-40 minutes.

Facilitators should submit a 1 page summary of how they intend to run the facilitation to their instructor as evidence of their preparation.
Review Assignment 1 & 2 (15% each)
During weeks 6 and 12, the class will be devoted to completing review questions. Students will not attend a formal class during these weeks. Each assignment will require students to prepare 3-5 three short answer questions based on the core lecture material.

*Note that for INMT8821 students, these review assignments will include additional exercises beyond those required by INMT8506 students.

IS Research Proposal (30%)
Your major piece of assessment is to develop a proposal to conduct research into an aspect related to the information systems discipline.

You can choose any relevant topic which is of interest to you but your topic should be approved by your instructor before you embark on a thorough analysis. The paper that you produce should be written in an academic style which justifies your proposed research and grounds it in the academic literature. More details of this submission and the marking criteria will be made available on WebCT.

Your proposal will include a review of the academic literature related to your research topic and question(s). Preparing a literature review is not a trivial task and so you should commence your review early in semester (ie get your topic approved by the end of week 5). You should refer to:


in your course reader for advice on constructing a literature review.

During the penultimate week of semester you will make a brief proposal presentation to the class. This presentation will contribute 5% toward the overall mark for this piece of assessment.

Submission of assignments
All assignments should be submitted through the WebCT assignment submission system.

Student Guild
Phone: (+61 8) 6488 2295
Facsimile: (+61 8) 6488 1041
E-mail: enquiries@guild.uwa.edu.au
Website: http://www.guild.uwa.edu.au

Charter of Student Rights and Responsibilities

 Appeals against academic assessment
The University provides the opportunity for students to lodge an appeal against assessment results and/or progress status (refer http://www.secretariat.uwa.edu.au/home/policies/appeals).