

University of NSW
School of Information Systems Technology and Management

INFS5986/INFS4886
RESEARCH TOPICS IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS 1
Course Outline for Session 1, 2005

Objective

The objective is to acquaint students with the tasks and characteristics of research. Through reading and discussion of how knowledge can be gained and tested, the student will start to be equipped with the necessary skills and understanding to carry out Information Systems research. The course also covers the identification of the research topic, developing a literature review, research planning, design of research methods and writing up of research.

Staff and Location

Professor Graham Low, Quad 2096, Phone 9385 4413; email: g.low@unsw.edu.au

Class Location and time - Monday 5-8pm in QUAD G031

Assessment and due dates.

Ass1: Quantitative research ass.	Due week 6	25%
Ass2: Qualitative research ass.	Due week 9	25%
Ass3: Design Science research ass.	Due week 12	30%
Classwork, presentations and Participation		20%

Assignments are due by 5.00pm Friday in the respective weeks shown above.

Hand ins:

All work handed in to bear a title page with course name and number, assignment number, date submitted, your name and a declaration, without which, the work will not be assessed.:

Declaration: *I declare that all this submitted work is entirely my (our) own except for those sources which I have referenced, and that it has not been previously submitted for assessment in any course in any institution.*

Late work will be penalised by deducting 10% per day for each day late.

Classwork

This is a seminar based course and you will only benefit if you prepare in advance and contribute. At times there may be a short quiz during the class to motivate good preparation and to contribute to the assessment.

School Seminars and Honours Presentation Day

It is a course requirement that each student attend at least 80% of the School Research seminars which are held on Thursdays at 11.00 – 12.00. In addition all students are required to attend the Honours students' presentation towards the end of session – date to be advised. As often as possible, the following class will commence with a brief discussion on the previous week's research seminar.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Text	Reference
1	28/2	Introduction - What is research	LO 1	HHJ 1
2	7/3	Tools of Research Finding the Research Problem	LO 2 LO 3	HHJ 2
3	14/3	Effective Searching – (Guest) and Ethics Literature Review	LO 4	HHJ 3 HHJ 19
4	21/3	Planning the Research Project and Writing the Research Proposal	LO5 LO 6	
		RECESS		
5	4/4	Quantitative Research 1	LO 9	HHJ 4-7
6	11/4	Quantitative Research 2 Assign 1 due Friday week 6		HHJ 8-10
7	18/4	Qualitative Research 1	LO 7, 8	HHJ 15-16
8	25/4	PUBLIC HOLIDAY		
9	2/5	Qualitative Research 2 Assign 1 due Friday week 9	LO 7, 8	HHJ 15-16
10	9/5	Experimental design	LO 10	HHJ 11-14
11	16/5	Design Science Research	Readings to be advised	
12	23/5	Statistical Techniques & Using SPSS Assign 3 due Friday week 12	LO 11 LO Appendix	HHJ 17, 18
13	30/5	Preparing and writing the Research Report	LO 12	HHJ 20
14	6/6	Presentations		

Textbook

Leedy, P.D. and Ormrod, J. E., *Practical Research Planning and Design*, 8th ed, Pearson Merrill Prentice-Hall, 2005. [LO]

Very highly recommended

Hoyle, R, Harris, M and Judd, C., *Research Methods in Social Relations*, 7th ed, Wadsworth 2002. [HHJ]

References

Chalmers, A.F., *What is this thing called science?*, 3rd ed., U of Q Press, 1999.
 Yin, R.K., *Case Study Research: Design and Methods*, 2nd edn, Sage Publications, 1994.
 Benbasat, I., & Zmud, R., (1999) Empirical research in Information Systems *MISQ* 23, 1 [and associated commentary] 1-29.
 Mingers, J., (2001) Combining IS research methods: Towards a pluralistic methodology. *ISR* 12, 3, 240-259
 Martin, J., A garbage can model of the research process, in McGrath, J., Martin, J., & Kulka, R., *Judgement Calls in Research*, Beverly Hills : Sage Publications, 1982
 Further references to be supplied during the session.

Academic Misconduct

Students are reminded that the University regards academic misconduct as a very serious matter. Students found guilty of academic misconduct are usually excluded from the University for 2 years. Because of the circumstances in individual cases, the period of exclusion can range from one session to permanent exclusion from the University.

One of the most common forms of academic misconduct is plagiarism which entails taking and using as one's own, the thoughts or writings of another without acknowledgement including: (a) where paragraphs, sentences, a single sentence or significant part of a sentence which are copied directly, are not enclosed in quotation marks and appropriately footnoted; (b) where direct quotations are not used, but ideas or arguments are paraphrased or summarised, and the source of the material is not acknowledged either by footnoting or other reference within the text of the paper; and (c) where an idea, which appears elsewhere in print, film or electronic medium, is used or developed without reference being made to the author or the source of the idea. Please see for further detail: http://www/fce.unsw.edu.au/current_students/responsibilities.shtml#misconduct

Email contact.

Email will only be accepted from a Uni account. Try to keep your emails brief. If the matter is of general interest and can wait until the next class, please ask then so all may hear and participate.

School Policies

Students are advised that the School has policies on course administrative matters such as special consideration and supplementary exams. These guidelines may be viewed at <http://sistm.web.unsw.edu.au/student/schoolpolicies.html>

Course Assignments

These will be posted on the course WebCT site www.webct.unsw.edu.au