Subject Outline
IACT441- IT Research Methodology (SCSSE Version)
Autumn/Spring Session 2007

GENERAL INFORMATION

Subject Coordinator/Lecturer: Professor Aditya Ghose
Telephone Number: 02 42214051
Email: aditya@uow.edu.au
Location: Building 3, Room 105

Professor Ghose’s Consultation Times During Session
Day       Time
Tuesday   8:30 am - 10:30 am
Wednesday 9:30 am - 10:30 am and 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Subject Coordinator/Lecturer: Professor Philip Ogunbona
Telephone Number: 02 4221 5881
Email: philipo@uow.edu.au
Location: Building 3, Room 222

Professor Ogunbona’s Consultation Times During Session
Day       Time
Wednesday 11:30 – 13:30
Friday    14:30 – 16:30

Subject Organisation
Session: Autumn and Spring Session, Wollongong Campus
Credit Points: 6 credit points
Contact hours per week: 2 hr lecture
Lecture Times & Location for Spring:
Tue 08:30 10:30 19.1098
Tue 08:30 10:30 22.G23 Week4-13

Tutorial Day, Time and Location can be found at: http://www.uow.edu.au/student/sols/timetables/index.html

Students should check the subject’s web site regularly as important information, including details of unavoidable changes in assessment requirements will be posted from time to time. Any information posted to the web site is deemed to have been notified to all students.

Content

The program of study for BCompSc(Hons), IACT441 consists of attendance and participation at a series of seminars on research methodology (including quantitative and qualitative analysis).
Seminars will cover the purpose of research, formulating a research question, conducting a literature review and writing a research proposal. Students will learn how to design an appropriate research plan. Requirements for scholarly writing will also be discussed and the process of undertaking a research project will be analysed.

**Objectives**

To qualify for the award of the Bachelor of Computer Science (Honours) candidates must complete IACT441 successfully. Upon completion of the subject the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate skills necessary to undertake scholarly research through the conduct of a critical literature review
- Demonstrate written communication skill through the production of a literature review report
- Demonstrate oral communication skill through presentation of research seminars
- Demonstrate problem solving skill and idea development techniques literature review and research question identification
- Demonstrate ability to conduct independent research of new topics through the presentation of research seminar on contemporary computer science issues

**Attendance Requirements**

It is the responsibility of students to attend all seminars and complete all assigned tasks especially since there are weekly assessment tasks.

**Method of Presentation**

This subject *commences* in common with IACT441/940 IT Research Methodology 0(8:30 – 10:30 Tuesdays in 19.1098), which CS Honours Students take alongside BIinfoTech Honours students. In Week 2, they branch off on their own into the Honours Seminar IACT441 (CS strand).

These seminars takes place at 08:30 – 18:30 Tuesdays in 19.1098, and comprise of weekly discussions with the Coordinators and fellow CS Students on both CS research issues and more generally leading edge CS topics.

It should be noted that the amount of time spent on each 6 credit point subject should be at least 12 hours per week.

**Subject Materials**

There are no set texts for this subject, however reading lists, relevant websites etc. will be advised where appropriate – note however that students will be encouraged to conduct their own literature searches, since this is a key aspect of undertaking your own research projects

These readings/references are recommended only and are not intended to be an exhaustive list. Students are encouraged to use the library catalogue and databases to locate additional readings.

**Assessment**

This subject has the following assessment components.

Seminar work detailed in the table below is marked out of a total of 100.

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<th>Assessment Items &amp; Format</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Mark</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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IACT441 Subject Outline, Spring Session 2007
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
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| Critical Literature Review on a nominated topic                          | 40   | Week 13 in class for Aut start (May 24th, 11:30 – 13:30) in hardcopy  
Week 13 in class for Spring start (Oct 23rd, 8:30 – 10:30) in hardcopy |
| Seminar                                                                 | 20   | Schedule to be announced in class based on final numbers enrolled. Students will be provided a topic for the seminar 2 weeks prior to the date of the seminar. |
| Annotated bibliography                                                   | 10   | Week 7 in class for Aut start (April 5th, 11:30 – 13:30) in hardcopy  
Week 7 in class for Spring start (Oct 10th, 8:30 – 10:30) in hardcopy |
| Critical reviews of student seminars presented in Honours Seminar meetings | 10   | Week 13 in class for Aut start (May 24th, 11:30 – 13:30) in hardcopy  
Week 13 in class for Spring start (Oct 23rd, 8:30 – 10:30) in hardcopy |
| Critical reviews of at least 12 seminars, including seminars hosted by SCSSE, SISAT and TITR research groups | 10   | Week 13 in class for Aut start (May 24th, 11:30 – 13:30) in hardcopy  
Week 13 in class for Spring start (Oct 23rd, 8:30 – 10:30) in hardcopy |
| Class participation                                                      | 10   |                                                                                                                                                     |

**Notes on Assessment**

- The critical literature review document on the nominated research topic must be submitted in hardcopy in class in Week 13.
- The annotated bibliography on the nominated research topic must be submitted in hardcopy in class in Week 7.
- All critical reviews of seminars must be submitted in hardcopy in class in Week 13.
- The class participation mark will be based on the student’s ability to effectively participate in seminar presentations as a member of the audience – this entails critically evaluating each presentation and asking a minimum of 3 questions during question time at the end of each presentation.
- Unless an extension on the due date has been sought and granted prior to the due date of an assessment item, late submissions will be penalized in the following manner: 10% of the total mark for the assessment item will be deducted for every day the assessment item is late.

**Additional Information**

Students must refer to the Faculty Handbook or online references which contains a range of policies on educational issues and student matters.
Student Academic Grievance Policy

The School aims to provide a fair, equitable and productive learning environment for all its students. The Student Academic Grievance Policy seeks to support the achievement of this goal by providing a transparent and consistent process for resolving student academic grievances.

Any student who has a grievance over a result should obtain a Faculty of Informatics Appeal Against Decision or Action Affecting Academic Experience form from the Informatics Student Enquiry Centre or http://www.uow.edu.au/content/groups/public/@web/@inf/@faculty/documents/doc/uow017433.pdf. The student should firstly take the form to the marker/lecturer to discuss the matter and, if the student is still not satisfied, s/he should take the next step as outlined on the form.

Once the grievance has been considered by the Faculty, if the student still feels the situation has not been fully resolved s/he may consult the Dean of Students. However, the Dean of Students can have no input into the academic judgement of the lecturer and can only review the grievance to ensure proper procedure has been followed.

For more information, please consult the UOW policy in full at http://www.uow.edu.au/handbook/courserules/studacgrievpol.html

This outline should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

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<th>Acknowledgement Practice</th>
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<th>Code of Practice-Honours</th>
<th>Informatics Faculty Librarian, Ms Annette Meldrum, phone: 4221 4637, <a href="mailto:ameldrum@uow.edu.au">ameldrum@uow.edu.au</a></th>
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