GENERAL INFORMATION

Subject Coordinator/Lecturer:  
Associate Professor Peter Hyland
Telephone Number:  
4221 3759
Email:  
phyland@uow.edu.au
Location:  
39.114

Assoc Prof Hyland’s Consultation Times During Session

Day  
Monday  
13.30 – 15.30 
Friday  
13.30 – 15.30

Subject Organisation

Session:  
Autumn Session, Wollongong Campus
Credit Points  
6 credit points
Contact hours per week:  
2 hrs lecture
Lecture Times & Location:  
TBA

Students doing a Masters by Research or a minor research project as part of their MICT, MICT (Adv) or other Masters degree in IT will normally be required to undertake IACT940 prior to doing that project. In some cases, students may be allowed to do IACT940 in parallel with their research project, although this is strongly discouraged. All the students enrolled in IACT940 will attend the first four weeks of the lecture schedule below. This provides both them with a broad overview of the research process and fundamental research concepts.

Students who have selected a research topic with an IT focus will find that the remainder of the lecture schedule and assessment tasks set out below provide a good introduction to research methods for them. Students whose project is an IT project will be required to complete the program set out in this subject outline.

However, students who have selected a research topic with a strong computer science focus will find parts of the following lecture schedule and assessment task less relevant to their projects. Consequently, within the first four weeks of the semester, students doing a Masters research project must reach an agreement with their supervisor about which research methods program is more appropriate for their project. Masters students whose research project is clearly a computer science project will be required to complete the computer science research methods program and NOT do the remainder of the program set out in this subject outline. Details of this other program will be presented during the first lecture and, briefly, in subsequent lectures. Masters students doing the computer science research program will be given a cumulative mark for the assessment tasks in that program and that mark will be recorded as their mark for IACT940.

Content

This subject will cover the following topics on IT research methodology: What is Research (Purpose of thesis components); Research Methods; Literature Review - Critical Reading, Annotated bibliography and note taking; Survey Methods; Quantitative Methodologies (Results etc); Literature Review - Structure, Writing Up and Presentation Skills Satisfactory attendance at workshops is a requirement for the successful completion of this subject as is attendance at the Postgraduate Forum, held usually during week 8 of Autumn Session.

Objectives

A student who successfully completes this subject should be able to:
(i) Communicate effectively (both orally and in writing) the results of their investigation;
(ii) Present a literature review on the research topic which includes in its content relevant books, journal articles, software reviews and bibliographies and which demonstrates skilful use of appropriate research tools; and
(iii) Demonstrate the skills necessary to undertake a project.

Lecture Schedule:
The subject coordinator may invite guest speakers to present specialised topics as part of the lecture schedule. To accommodate these guest speakers and other unforeseen events, the lecture schedule below may change from time to time. Students will be notified of any such changes either on the WebCT site for this subject, in tutorials or both.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to subject</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Research as a process &amp; research proposals</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>31 July</td>
<td>Research Concepts &amp; Library Resources</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>7 Aug</td>
<td>Research Concepts &amp; Literature Review - Structure</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>14 Aug</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>21 Aug</td>
<td>Methods 1</td>
<td>Annotated Bibliography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>28 Aug</td>
<td>Methods 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>4 Sept</td>
<td>Methods 3</td>
<td>Research Proposal Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>11 Sept</td>
<td>Literature Review - Peer review</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>18 Sept</td>
<td>Writing up your thesis</td>
<td>Literature Review Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2 Oct</td>
<td>Presentation Skills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>9 Oct</td>
<td>First Student Presentations - Your Project to-date</td>
<td>Methodology Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>16 Oct</td>
<td>Second Student Presentations - Your Project to-date</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>23 Oct</td>
<td>Final Student presentations &amp; Summing Up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>2 Nov</td>
<td>Study break prior to exams. Report due COB, Friday</td>
<td>Final submission due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RECESS       24 SEPT – 28 SEPT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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STUDY RECESS:

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.

Attendance Requirements
It is the responsibility of students to attend all lectures/tutorials/labs/seminars/practical work for subjects for which you are enrolled.

It should be noted that according to Course Rule 003{Interpretation Point 2 (t)} each credit point for a single session subject has the value of about two hours per week including class attendance. Therefore, the amount of time spent on each 6 credit point subject should be at least 12 hours per week, which includes lectures/tutorials/labs etc

Method of Presentation
A series of lectures/workshops will be conducted on research methodology. An outline of topics covered is presented below including information relating to assessment. Further details will be provided in tutorials and on the WebCT site for this subject.
Students should check the subject's WebCT site regularly as important information, including details of unavoidable changes in assessment requirements, will be posted from time to time on WebCT (URL: http://www.uow.edu.au/student/lol). Any information posted to the WebCT site is deemed to have been notified to all students.

Subject Materials

Recommended Reading:


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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Items &amp; Format</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Mark</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>21 August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Research Proposal (Introduction)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>4 Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Literature Review</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>18 Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Methodology</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>9 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Student presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>16 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Final submission</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>23 Oct*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Introduction (NOT a research proposal)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Literature Review</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Methodology Chapter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- References</td>
<td></td>
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* See the note on Timing of Assessment Tasks below

Notes on Assessment

This subject is intended to assist with the writing of the first three chapters of IACT450/950 Research Reports. By concurrently working on the content (product) as well as the process, it is hoped that the underlying research methodologies will become apparent to each student either directly (by experience) or indirectly (by the seminars).

Detailed requirements for each individual assessment task will be given during the weekly lecture/workshop series and will be posted on WebCT. The following general requirements apply to all assessment tasks:

- Task 2, 3 4 and 6 should be completed using the BinfoTech Honours Report guidelines
- **Two printed copies** of assessment tasks are to be submitted to the subject co-coordinator. One of these will be given to your Honours Report Supervisor. Electronic submission is not a suitable means of submission unless prior permission has been given by the subject co-coordinator
- Penalties will apply to all late work, except if special consideration is deemed necessary or unless an extension has been granted by the subject co-coordinator. Requests for extensions should be emailed to the subject co-coordinator, prior to the due date.
- See Honours handbook for further details of Assessment procedures.

Final Submission: The requirements for the Final Submission are that it should contain the following:

- Chapter 1 - Draft Introduction / Research Proposal
- Chapter 2- Literature Review
- Chapter 3 - Research Method/Design
- References
The final submission is a lengthy and complex document. Students need to be aware that it will take a significant time to prepare. However, the report will be based on the first three assessment items and the feedback received on those items; so, in the vast majority of cases, students will be revising, rather than re-writing, the final submission.

**Student presentation:** Each student is required to present a seminar on his or her research project. These student seminars will take place in weeks 11, 12 and 13, depending on the number of IACT441/940 research projects. Students will be allocated a week during which they must present their seminar; students will be notified of the date of their presentation within the first 4 weeks of semester, giving all students adequate time to prepare their seminars.

**Timing of assessment tasks:** For all students, the final two assessment tasks will be due on the same day; for a significant proportion of the students, all three of the final assessment tasks will be due within a week. Students must make sure they manage their time well to ensure that they can meet these deadlines. However, writing the seminar reviews and the final submission will be ongoing tasks, carried out over a long time. Students are strongly advised to begin work on these tasks as early as possible. At the discretion of the subject co-coordinator, the due date for one or both of these tasks may be extended for all students. If this occurs, all students will be notified beforehand.

**Additional Information**

Students must refer to the BlinfoTech Honours Handbook, the Faculty Handbook or online references which contain a range of policies on educational issues and student matters.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code of Practice - Teaching and Assessment</th>
<th>Code of Practice - Students</th>
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</table>

**Acknowledgement Practice** **Plagiarism will not be tolerated**


**Special Consideration Policy**


**Non-Discriminatory Language Practice and Presentation**


**Occupational Health and Safety**


**SITACS Computer Usage Rules**


**SITACS Student Guide**


**Code of Practice - Teaching and Assessment**


**Key Dates**


**Information Literacies Introduction Program**


**Student Academic Grievance Policy**


**Code of Practice-Honours**


**Intellectual Property Policy**


**SITACS Internet Access & Student Resource Centre**


**SITACS Style Guide for Footnotes, Documentation, Essay and Report Writing**


**Informatics Faculty Librarian, Ms Annette Meldrum**, phone: 4221 4637, ameldrum@uow.edu.au