UNSW Business School

School of Information Systems and Technology Management

INFS3020
INTERNATIONAL INFORMAITION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY PRACTICUM

Course Outline
Semester 2, 2017

Course-Specific Information

The Business School expects that you are familiar with the contents of this course outline. You must also be familiar with the Course Outlines Policies webpage which contains key information on:
• Program Learning Goals and Outcomes
• Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
• Student Responsibilities and Conduct
• Special Consideration
• Student Support and Resources

This webpage can be found on the Business School website:
https://www.business.unsw.edu.au/degrees-courses/course-outlines/policies

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COURSE-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1   STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

	Name	**Office**	**Email:**	**Telephone**
Lecturer-in-Charge (LIC)	Zixiu Guo	QUAD 2108	z.guo@unsw.edu.au	9385 7174

2   COURSE DETAILS

2.1   Teaching Times and Locations

This is a practical and intensive course, conducted primarily in a 3-week block in local and overseas locations. The practicum will take place in Shanghai, Hangzhou, Tianjin and Beijing, China in July 2017.

Pre-departure workshop	28 June 2017	9:30am-4:00pm Location: BUS G24
Practicum in China	1-17 July (inclusive)	
Debrief session upon return	Week 2 S2	TBA
Group Presentation	Week 6	TBA

For latest information about seminar locations see:
http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au/current/INFS3020.html.

2.2   Units of Credit
The course is worth 6 units of credit. There is no parallel teaching in this course.

2.3   Summary of Course
This course affords students the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of international aspect of information systems/technology (IS/IT) business operations (e.g. global IS/IT teams, distributed systems development, eBusiness, and localisation management) through first-hand observation of business operations in Asian countries such as China, India, and South Korea. In S2 2017, the focal country of the course will be China.

The components of the course are a series of seminars conducted in the university and a two-week study trip of China. During the field trip, a number of leading national and international companies operating in the IS/IT sector and in other sectors with a significant IS/IT footprint, will be visited. This is to enable students to develop an appreciation of the ways in which IS/IT-enabled business operations and business

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systems differ across cultures and countries. On their return, students will be required to prepare a group written report that builds on a real world problem they have identified during their field trip observations of the business landscape and the country. A group presentation and personal reflection report are also expected to be delivered post the trip.

2.4   Course Aims and Relationship to Other Courses

This course is offered as an INFS Level 3 elective within any IS programs. As this course allows you to develop a practical understanding of international aspects of IS/IT business operations, students must have undertaken at least 6 INFS courses before undertaking this course. Enrolment is restricted and only those students who meet the set requirements will be able to enroll. Specifically, eligible students must:

- Be in Good Academic Standing;
- Have a minimum WAM of 60 in INFS courses, and
- Have completed a minimum of 96 UOC by the commencement of this course, of which 36 UOC must be INFS courses.

This course aims to:
- Provide students exposure to IS/IT-enabled business projects, IS/IT development environments and eCommerce operations in Asia;
- Increase students' understanding of the how the theory of IS disciplines is applied in real international business situations;
- Develop students' critical thinking and problem solving skills;
- Develop students' cross-cultural understanding and the conduct of business in an international setting;
- Increase students' employability through the development of desirable work-ready skills and experience.

2.5   Student Learning Outcomes

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.

By the end of this course, you should be able to:
- Recognise and understand key concepts and theories discussed in the literature of doing information technology enabled business in the designated country;
- Gain practical knowledge and experience on conducting academic research to analyse real-world IS/IT cases;
- Demonstrate the ability to identify, research, discuss and analyse information technology trends and problems related to emerging e-businesses;
- Apply the above knowledge and skills to develop effective strategies and solutions; and
- Demonstrate professional skills sought by employers, in particular cross-cultural awareness, interpersonal skills, time management, initiative, independent learning, and ethical behaviour.

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

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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 Program Learning Goals and Outcomes, see the School's Course Outlines Policies webpage available at https://www.business.unsw.edu.au/degrees-courses/course-outlines/policies.

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 labs and other activities):

Program Learning Goals and Outcomes		Course Learning Outcomes	Course Assessment Item
This course helps you to achieve the following learning goals for all Business undergraduate students:		*On successful completion of the course, you should be able to:*	*This learning outcome will be assessed in the following items:*
1	Knowledge	• Recognise and understand key concepts and theories discussed in the literature of doing information technology enabled business in the designated country; • Gain practical knowledge and experience on conducting academic research to analyse real-world IS/IT cases;	• Workshop/Field Trip Participation • Group Project
2	Critical thinking and problem solving	• Demonstrate the ability to identify, research, discuss and analyse information technology trends and problems related to emerging e-businesses; • Apply the above knowledge and skills to develop effective strategies and solutions; and	• Workshop/Field Trip Participation • Group Project • Reflection
3a	Written communication	• Demonstrate professional skills sought by employers, in particular cross-cultural awareness, interpersonal skills, time management, initiative, independent learning, and ethical behaviour.	• Group Project • Reflection
3b	Oral communication	• Demonstrate the ability to identify, research, discuss and analyse information technology trends and problems related to emerging e-businesses;	• Workshop/Field Trip Participation • Group Project
4	Teamwork	• Demonstrate the ability to identify, research, discuss and analyse information technology trends and	• Group Project

		• problems related to emerging e-businesses; • Apply the above knowledge and skills to develop effective strategies and solutions		
5a	Ethical, environmental and sustainability responsibility	• Demonstrate professional skills sought by employers, in particular cross-cultural awareness, interpersonal skills, time management, initiative, independent learning, and ethical behaviour.	• Reflection	
5b	Social and cultural awareness	• Demonstrate professional skills sought by employers, in particular cross-cultural awareness, interpersonal skills, time management, initiative, independent learning, and ethical behaviour.	• Reflection	

3 LEARNING AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES

3.1 Learning Activities and Teaching Strategies

This course is largely experiential in its approach. The majority of learning will be carried out overseas where students work in multi-disciplinary teams and apply material they have learned in their programs to real-world business problems. Pre-departure workshop will prepare students for this experience by providing an introduction to China, Chinese social and economic conditions, cultural differences in IS/IT use, an awareness of culturally-sensitive behaviour, and professional communication and behaviour in the workplace. While in China, students will also attend a range of experimental workshops to deepen their understanding of IS/IT enabled business operations in China.

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%.
- Attain a satisfactory performance in each component of the course. A mark of 45% or higher is normally regarded as satisfactory.
- In the case of peer assessed group work, the mark assigned to each member of the group may be scaled based on peer assessment of each member's contribution to the task.

The School reserves the right to scale final marks to a mean of 60%.

It should be noted that group members are expected to work in a harmonious and professional fashion which includes adequate management of non-performing members.

4.2 Assessment Details

Assessment Task	Weighting	Length	Mode	Due Date
Workshop and field trip Participation	30%		Individual	ongoing
Group Project	55%	See detailed assignment specification	Group	TBA
Reflection Essay	15%	1000-1500 words	Individual	TBA
Total	100%			

Workshop and Field Trip Participation (30%)

Students are expected to participate actively and constructively during the pre-departure workshop and during the field trip. Specifically, students will be gauged on the following aspects:

- Regular attendance to pre-departure workshop and activities during the field trip.
- Active participation in seminar discussions and activities during the field trip.
- Constructive contribution to the group's learning experience.
- Documenting their experience in a daily journal (compulsory).

LIC is to assess and provide feedback on the performance based on the criteria of:

- Attendance;
- Daily reflection;
- Professionalism;
- Contribution to discussion; and
- Ability to present and answer questions.

Group Project (55%)

Six-member groups will be formed during the pre-departure workshop. Each group needs to satisfy the following minimal requirements:

- one member who can **read simplified Chinese**,
- one member who has **completed INFS2621**,
- one member who has **completed INFS3603**, and
- one member who has **completed INF3604**.

Adopting a **design thinking approach**, groups will (**1) identify and critically evaluate a significant real-world problem or opportunity facing companies we visit, and (2) propose a feasible and creative digitally enabled solution for the Chinese context/market on their return to the University.**

The specification, marking criteria, and submission requirements for this assignment will be made available on the Moodle course website and will be discussed both at the pre-departure and the debriefing sessions.

Reflection Essay (15%)

Each student will write a short essay (1000-1500 words) detailing their individual reflections on the practicum experience. It is to be submitted after the group presentation. The reflection can cover (but not limited to) for example - what they have understood about the Chinese socio-economic landscape, business operations, culture, work practices, technology use, how this experience was different from their prior experience and understanding of technology use in China, working in businesses, working in a different country, cultural understanding, and what they learnt about themselves through this experience.

Marking Criteria for this essay:

- Analysis of your own participation in the course, including both pre-departure seminars and filed trip, and team project;
- Depth of insight and reflection on experiences in China;
- Ability to draw broader learning about technology, business, people and themselves from this experience.

4.3 Late Submission

Late submission of an assignment is not desirable. Assignments are to be submitted on—or better before—the due date. The late submission of assignments carries a penalty of 10% of the awarded marks for that assignment per day of lateness (including weekends and public holidays) unless an extension of time has been granted by the Lecturer-in-Charge. An extension of time to complete an assignment may be granted by the Lecturer-in-charge in case of misadventure or illness. Applications for an extension should be made to the Lecturer-in-Charge by email or in person before the due date. You will be required to substantiate your application with appropriate evidence such as medical certificates, accident reports etc. Please note that workload, work commitments and computer failures are usually considered insufficient grounds for an extension.

4.4 Special Consideration

For information on Special Consideration please refer to the Business School's Course Outlines Policies webpage.

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.

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5 COURSE RESOURCES

The website for this course is on UNSW Moodle at:
https://moodle.telt.unsw.edu.au/login/index.php.

There is no specific textbook for the course. However, a number of useful readings (articles and resources) will be provided through the course Moodle site. Each student is expected to do his/her own research on the topic they choose for the assignment.

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 myExperience survey is one of the ways in which student evaluative feedback is gathered. In this course, we will seek your feedback through end of semester myExperience survey and your informal feedback we run for the course.

7 SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Readings
28 June	▪ Course Introduction and Introduction to China ▪ Doing Business in China	See Course Moodle Site
1st July	Departure to China	
3rd – 16th July	Field trip in China	
17th July	Departure Tianjin, China	
Week 2	Debriefing Session	
Week 6	Group Project due	

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