



The University of Auckland Business School

Course Outline 2010 MGMT 743: DIRECTED READINGS (15 POINTS)

Summer School, (1100)

Course Prescription

Students will become familiar with the underlying theory and research in the area of their focus.

Programme and Course Advice

This is an advanced course intended for students enrolled in the Master of Commerce, Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) or Postgraduate Diploma in Commerce degrees.

Goals of the Course

This is a self-directed paper, exploring a research area of your choice, as negotiated with a chosen supervisor. The outcome of this paper is an in-depth essay in which you will be required to explore a topic using the extant literature.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course it is expected that the student will be able to:

1. understand the research process and engage in research projects/theses in an organised way;
 2. understand the current trends and research literature in his/her area of focus.
- Many students have used this paper as a basis for further research and/or their career development.

Content Outline

There is an expectation that the student and the lecturer/supervisor will meet at regular intervals to discuss progress and for the lecturer to provide guidance. Students are responsible for ascertaining specific requirements, maintaining contact with their supervisor, and pursuing appropriate research on empirical and theoretical literatures, under supervision.

Learning and Teaching

The course is taught in the city campus and this will be arranged between the supervisor and the student. The course timeline is negotiated between student and their supervisor, but normally follows a process of directed readings and development of a research paper on a particular course against a timeline:

Weeks 1-2: Research proposal/overview

Weeks 2-5: Literature review

Weeks 5-6: Drafts

Teaching Staff

Lecturer:

Siah Hwee Ang

http://staff.business.auckland.ac.nz/StaffDirectory/StaffProfile/tabid/542/upi/san_g020/Default.aspx

Learning Resources

Lecture notes and published materials about methodologies. Readings related to the area of focus.

Assessment

The essay is expected to be about 6,000 words. It should contain the typical components of a dissertation. These include (1) motivation and objectives, (2) compact and relevant literature review and (3) areas of future research as identified from the literature. The essay also needs to include adequate and representative references and has a good referencing format.

Rubrics for Critique Assignment

Grade	Assessment Criteria
A range	The student shows excellence in the subject, fit to pass with high distinction. The student shows understanding of the relevant literature well beyond basic reading requirements and/or shows perception of how theoretical debates or professional practice could be significantly advanced. The argument is highly compelling. The assessment is highly readable, enhancing the power of the ideas presented.
B range	The student shows strength in the subject, fit to pass with some distinction. The student shows the same faithful understanding of the key concepts and theories as the C grade performance but reviews ideas with greater critical faculty or shows evidence of more extensive knowledge. The essay shows greater overall strength of argument than a C grade and is likely to demonstrate a more proficient approach. There are some areas for improvement but the work shows the ability to perform beyond basic competence in the subject.
C range	The student shows basic competence in the subject, fit to pass. The student shows an advanced understanding of the relevant literature. The major academic concepts and theories associated with the course are understood and appropriately applied to the business problem in question. However, performance would be improved through greater more in-depth literature review or by a more active approach to learning. Arguments are adequately defended with appropriate theory and empirical research, supporting the points of view espoused. However, deeper reflection on relevant theory or more vigorous engagement with the ideas of others would lead to improvements in certain aspects of the argument. Word choice is appropriate but writing style may be somewhat pedestrian.
D range	The student fails to show basic competence in the subject and is not fit to pass. Here major concepts and theories relevant to the work and course are overlooked, misunderstood or misapplied. The argument is logically flawed, misunderstood or completely omitted. Word choice is often inappropriate, compromising the effectiveness of communication.