UNSW Course Outline

INFS5987 Theoretical Foundations of Information Systems - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : INFS5987
Year : 2024
Term : Term 1
Teaching Period : T1
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : UNSW Business School
Academic Unit : School of Information Systems and Technology Management
Delivery Mode : In Person
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Postgraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

Handbook Class Timetable

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

The course examines the most influential and innovative theoretical approaches and theories in the Information Systems (IS) discipline. Based on exemplary published works for each selected theory, students will examine theory's particular focus, background and ontological assumptions,

as well as its epistemological implications and contribution to knowledge. Such an examination will enable an insight into theories' application, contribution and implications. By engaging in theoretical discourse and critically assessing selected theories students will gain deeper understanding of major theoretical developments in the IS discipline and their relevance and implications for practice. The seminar character of the course assumes active participation and contribution by the students.

Course Aims

The course aims to

i) review and critically analyse major theoretical developments in the IS discipline,

ii) engage students in deeper understanding and exploring theoretical problems in the IS discipline and

iii) enable students' participation in theoretical discourse as well as in debates about IS theory relevance to practice.

Relationship to Other Courses

This course is offered as part of postgraduate research training in the IS discipline. The course aims to:

1. Review and critically analyze major theories and theoretical developments in the Information Systems (IS) discipline,

2. Enable students deeper understanding and exploration of theoretical problems in the IS discipline and

3. Develop students abilities to participate in theoretical discourse as well as in debates about IS theory relevance to practice.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes	Program learning outcomes
CLO1 : Comprehend, assess and review major theoretical developments in the IS discipline.	• PLO2 : Academic Excellence
CLO2 : Demonstrate skills and knowledge that enable you to participate in theoretical debates regarding IS research and its relevance to practice.	• PLO3 : Leadership
CLO3 : Critically analyse and assess theoretical foundations of research papers and their contribution to knowledge.	• PLO3 : Business Communication
CLO4 : Apply a selected theory in empirical research and draw novel insights.	• PLO4 : Global Impact
CLO5 : Construct written reports of theoretical nature that are logically and systematically presented, in a style of IS research journals.	• PLO2 : Academic Excellence
CLO6 : Communicate conceptual ideas in a coherent, succinct and convincing manner, suitable to both research and practitioner audience.	• PLO5 : Social Engagement

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Comprehend, assess and review major theoretical developments in the IS discipline.	• Assignment #4
CLO2 : Demonstrate skills and knowledge that enable you to participate in theoretical debates regarding IS research and its relevance to practice.	• Assignment #1 • Assignment #2 • Assignment #3 • Assignment #4
CLO3 : Critically analyse and assess theoretical foundations of research papers and their contribution to knowledge.	• Assignment #1 • Assignment #2 • Assignment #3 • Assignment #4
CLO4 : Apply a selected theory in empirical research and draw novel insights.	• Assignment #3 • Assignment #4
CLO5 : Construct written reports of theoretical nature that are logically and systematically presented, in a style of IS research journals.	• Assignment #1 • Assignment #2 • Assignment #3 • Assignment #4
CLO6 : Communicate conceptual ideas in a coherent, succinct and convincing manner, suitable to both research and practitioner audience.	• Assignment #1 • Assignment #2 • Assignment #3 • Assignment #4

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Learning and Teaching in this course

This course adopts a peer-centered and collaborative learning approach underpinned by the assumption that knowledge in a learning environment is co-created and shared rather than transferred. A classroom becomes a learning site when all participants take an active role and construct space and social environment in which knowledge is freely shared and curiosity and criticality are nurtured rather than compliance and respect of authoritative sources. In such a classroom all participants have their responsibilities. As participants and contributors to knowledge co-production lecturers have the responsibility to design the desired learning environment and provide appropriate resources (reading materials, lectures, and slides, exercises). Students as co-producers of knowledge on their part have responsibility to prepare for the classes, read the material specified for each class, complete required tasks, make notes and critically reflect on the readings. Only well-prepared students will be able to take an active role in class and contribute to class discussions.

Other Professional Outcomes

No additional learning outcomes.

Additional Course Information

Students are encouraged to contact the lecturer-in-charge if additional information is required.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates	Program learning outcomes
Assignment #1 Assessment Format: Individual	25%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable	• PLO2 : Academic Excellence
Assignment #2 Assessment Format: Individual	25%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable	• PLO1 : Research Excellence
Assignment #3 Assessment Format: Individual	25%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable	• PLO5 : Social Engagement
Assignment #4 Assessment Format: Individual	25%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable	• PLO3 : Leadership

Assessment Details

Assignment #1

Assessment Overview

Students will be asked to review a theory/theoretical approach used in information systems and break it down into its key concepts and propositions.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Demonstrate skills and knowledge that enable you to participate in theoretical debates regarding IS research and its relevance to practice.
- CLO3 : Critically analyse and assess theoretical foundations of research papers and their contribution to knowledge.
- CLO5 : Construct written reports of theoretical nature that are logically and systematically presented, in a style of IS research journals.
- CLO6 : Communicate conceptual ideas in a coherent, succinct and convincing manner, suitable to both research and practitioner audience.

Detailed Assessment Description

Detailed assessment descriptions will be provided in Moodle.

Submission notes

N/A

Assignment #2

Assessment Overview

Students will be asked to review a theory/theoretical approach used in information systems and critique it to identify its limitations, boundary conditions and range of applicability.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Demonstrate skills and knowledge that enable you to participate in theoretical debates regarding IS research and its relevance to practice.
- CLO3 : Critically analyse and assess theoretical foundations of research papers and their contribution to knowledge.
- CLO5 : Construct written reports of theoretical nature that are logically and systematically presented, in a style of IS research journals.
- CLO6 : Communicate conceptual ideas in a coherent, succinct and convincing manner, suitable to both research and practitioner audience.

Detailed Assessment Description

Detailed assessment descriptions will be provided in Moodle.

Assessment information

Additional information will be provided on Moodle.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assignment #3

Assessment Overview

Students will be asked to review a theory/theoretical approach used in information systems and apply it to interpret empirical data.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Demonstrate skills and knowledge that enable you to participate in theoretical debates regarding IS research and its relevance to practice.
- CLO3 : Critically analyse and assess theoretical foundations of research papers and their contribution to knowledge.

- CLO4 : Apply a selected theory in empirical research and draw novel insights.
- CLO5 : Construct written reports of theoretical nature that are logically and systematically presented, in a style of IS research journals.
- CLO6 : Communicate conceptual ideas in a coherent, succinct and convincing manner, suitable to both research and practitioner audience.

Detailed Assessment Description

Detailed assessment descriptions will be provided in Moodle.

Assessment information

Additional information will be provided on Moodle.

Assignment #4

Assessment Overview

Students will be asked to review a theory/theoretical approach used in information systems and extend it meaningfully based on empirical data.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Comprehend, assess and review major theoretical developments in the IS discipline.
- CLO2 : Demonstrate skills and knowledge that enable you to participate in theoretical debates regarding IS research and its relevance to practice.
- CLO3 : Critically analyse and assess theoretical foundations of research papers and their contribution to knowledge.
- CLO4 : Apply a selected theory in empirical research and draw novel insights.
- CLO5 : Construct written reports of theoretical nature that are logically and systematically presented, in a style of IS research journals.
- CLO6 : Communicate conceptual ideas in a coherent, succinct and convincing manner, suitable to both research and practitioner audience.

Detailed Assessment Description

Detailed assessment descriptions will be provided in Moodle.

Assessment information

Additional information will be provided on Moodle.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

General Assessment Information

As a student at UNSW you are expected to display academic integrity in your work and interactions. Where a student breaches the UNSW Student Code with respect to academic

integrity, the University may take disciplinary action under the Student Misconduct Procedure. To assure academic integrity, you may be required to demonstrate reasoning, research and the process of constructing work submitted for assessment.

To assist you in understanding what academic integrity means, and how to ensure that you do comply with the UNSW Student Code, it is strongly recommended that you complete the Working with Academic Integrity module before submitting your first assessment task. It is a free, online self-paced Moodle module that should take about one hour to complete.

You are expected to complete all assessment tasks for your courses in the School of Information Systems and Technology Management. Classes are highly practical and relevant to your assessments, so you are expected to attend at least 80% of all scheduled classes.

Where group assignments are used, team members are expected to work in a harmonious and professional fashion, which includes adequate management of non-performing members. You should inform your tutor as soon as possible if you experience problems within a project team. You may be required to evaluate the contribution of each team member (including yourself) in group work and marks for individual students may be adjusted based on peer assessment.

<u>Grading Basis</u>

Standard

<u>Requirements to pass course</u>

Standard requirements will be applied to the course.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 12 February - 18 February	Lecture	Introduction to the course • Objectives • Content • Learning outcomes • Students' engagement • Communication • Assessments None
Week 2 : 19 February - 25 February	Lecture	Introduction to Theory, theoretical Framework and Theoretical Contributions
Week 3 : 26 February - 3 March	Assessment	Assessment 1
Week 4 : 4 March - 10 March	Lecture	Details are provided on Moodle.
Week 5 : 11 March - 17 March	Assessment	Assessment 2
Week 6 : 18 March - 24 March	Other	Recharge Week Details are provided on Moodle.
Week 7 : 25 March - 31 March	Lecture	Details are provided on Moodle.
Week 8 : 1 April - 7 April	Assessment	Assessment 3
Week 9 : 8 April - 14 April	Lecture	Details are provided on Moodle.
Week 10 : 15 April - 21 April	Assessment	Details are provided on Moodle.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

General Schedule Information

Lecture will be held weekly. Please refer to academic calendar for details.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

The website for this course is on Moodle.

You will have access to the course website once you have enrolled in the course. The course website contains the course outline, the weekly plan, seminar slides, and reading lists, assignment details, announcements and other information about the course.

There is no textbook for this course. All relevant resources are provided via the Moodle for each weeks class: a topic, the list of references and e-copies of readings, class activities, and lecture slides.

Recommended Resources

All resources will. be made available on Moodle.

Additional Costs

No additional cost is expected.

Course Evaluation and Development

Students will submit four assignments as part of the continuous assessment in the course.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Lecturer	Shan Pan		Quadrangle Building	02 93850475	Email Appointment	No	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

COURSE POLICIES AND SUPPORT

The Business School expects that you are familiar with the contents of this course outline and the UNSW and Business School learning expectations, rules, policies and support services as listed below:

- Program Learning Outcomes
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Student Responsibilities and Conduct
- Special Consideration
- Protocol for Viewing Final Exam Scripts
- Student Learning Support Services

Further information is provided on the key policies and support page.

Students may not circulate or post online any course materials such as handouts, exams, syllabi or similar resources from their courses without the written permission of their instructor.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) – under the Outcomes tab – are what you should be able to demonstrate by the end of this course, if you participate fully in learning activities and successfully complete the assessment items.

CLOs also contribute to your achievement of the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs), which are developed across the duration of a program. PLOs are, in turn, directly linked to UNSW graduate capabilities. More information on Coursework PLOs is available on the key policies and support page. For PG Research PLOs, including MPDBS, please refer to the UNSW HDR Learning Outcomes.

Academic Honesty and Plagarism

As a student at UNSW you are expected to display academic integrity in your work and interactions. Where a student breaches the UNSW Student Code with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action under the Student Misconduct Procedure. To assure academic integrity, you may be required to demonstrate reasoning, research and the process of constructing work submitted for assessment.

To assist you in understanding what academic integrity means, and how to ensure that you do comply with the UNSW Student Code, it is strongly recommended that you complete the Working with Academic Integrity module before submitting your first assessment task. It is a free, online self-paced Moodle module that should take about one hour to complete.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances beyond your control interfere with your performance in a specific assessment task or tasks, including online exams. Students studying remotely who have exams scheduled between 10pm and 7am local time, are also able to apply for special consideration to sit a supplementary exam at a time outside of these hours.

Special consideration is primarily intended to provide you with an extra opportunity to demonstrate the level of performance of which you are capable. To apply, and for further information, see Special Consideration on the UNSW Current Students page.

Special consideration applications will be assessed centrally by the Case Review Team, who will

update the online application with the outcome and add any relevant comments. The change to the status of the application immediately sends an email to the student and to the assessor with the outcome of the application.

Please note the following:

1. Applications can only be made through Online Services in myUNSW (see the UNSW Current Students page). Applications will not be accepted by teaching staff. The lecturer-in-charge/ course coordinator will be automatically notified when your application is processed.
2. Applying for special consideration does not automatically mean that you will be granted a supplementary exam or other concession.
3. If you experience illness or misadventure in the lead up to an exam or assessment, you must submit an application for special consideration, either prior to the examination taking place, or prior to the assessment submission deadline, except where illness or misadventure prevent you from doing so.
4. If your circumstances stop you from applying before your exam or assessment due date, you must apply within 3 working days of the assessment or the period covered by your supporting documentation.
5. Under the UNSW Fit To Sit/Submit rule, if you sit the exam/submit an assignment, you are declaring yourself well enough to do so and are cannot subsequently apply for special consideration.
6. If you become unwell on the day of – or during – an exam, you must stop working on your exam, advise your course coordinator or tutor and provide a medical certificate dated within 24 hours of the exam, with your special consideration application. For online exams, you must contact your course coordinator or tutor immediately via email, Moodle or chat and advise them you are unwell and submit screenshots of your conversation along with your medical certificate and application.
7. Special consideration requests do not allow the awarding of additional marks to students.

Further information on Business School policy and procedure can be found under "Special Consideration" on the key policies and support page.

LATE SUBMISSION PENALTIES

For assessments other than examinations, late submission will incur a penalty of 5% per day or part thereof (including weekends) from the due date and time. An assessment will not be accepted after 5 days (120 hours) of the original deadline unless special consideration has been approved. An assignment is considered late if the requested format, such as hard copy or electronic copy, has not been submitted on time or where the 'wrong' assignment has been submitted.

For assessments which account for 10% or less of the overall course grade, and where answers are immediately discussed or debriefed, the LIC may stipulate a different penalty. Details of such late penalties will be available on the course Moodle page.

FEEDBACK ON YOUR ASSESSMENT TASK PERFORMANCE

Feedback on student performance from formative and summative assessment tasks will be provided to students in a timely manner. Assessment tasks completed within the teaching period of a course, other than a final assessment, will be assessed and students provided with feedback, with or without a provisional result, within 10 working days of submission, under normal circumstances. Feedback on continuous assessment tasks (e.g. laboratory and studio-based, workplace-based, weekly quizzes) will be provided prior to the midpoint of the course.

Faculty-specific Information

PROTOCOL FOR VIEWING FINAL EXAM SCRIPTS

UNSW students have the right to view their final exam scripts, subject to a small number of very specific exemptions. The UNSW Business School has set a protocol under which students may view their final exam script. Individual schools within the Faculty may also set up additional local processes for viewing final exam scripts, so it is important that you check with your School.

If you are completing courses from the following schools, please note the additional school-specific information:

- Students in the **School of Accounting, Auditing & Taxation** who wish to view their final examination script should also refer to this page.
- Students in the **School of Banking & Finance** should also refer to this page.
- Students in the **School of Information Systems & Technology Management** should also refer to this page.

COURSE EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Feedback is regularly sought from students and continual improvements are made based on this feedback. At the end of this course, you will be asked to complete the myExperience survey, which provides a key source of student evaluative feedback. Your input into this quality enhancement process is extremely valuable in assisting us to meet the needs of our students and provide an effective and enriching learning experience. The results of all surveys are carefully considered and do lead to action towards enhancing educational quality.

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.

TEACHING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Please note that teaching times and locations are subject to change. Students are strongly advised to refer to the Class Timetable website for the most up-to-date teaching times and locations.