Directed Individual Study - Course Outline
COMP 441: 2013 Trimester 2

This document sets out the workload and assessment requirements for COMP 441 when taken as a 400-level "wrapper" for another course. If you are taking COMP 441 in a different format, you will have an individualised course outline, negotiated with your supervisor and the organiser of COMP 441

This outline must be read in conjunction with the course outline for the wrapped course, which contains most of the details for the course. As a graduate course, you are required to do work additional to the 300-level wrapped course, generally in the form of an research essay on some topic related to the wrapped course.

Course Organiser: Peter Andreae

Assessment.

Your grade for COMP 441 will be determined based on the following assessment weightings:
- 80%: Your mark for the wrapped course
- 20%: Research Essay (or other negotiated component)

Research Essay

The essay is expected to be around 3000 words (4000 word limit), and is due at the end of the term (18 October).

You can choose your own topic for your essay but you must have the topic approved by the organiser of the wrapped course and by the organiser of COMP 441 (Peter Andreae) by 16 August, and have a preliminary bibliography of reading for the essay approved by 9 September. You should submit the essay topic, the bibliography, and the final essay via the submission system.

Unless you negotiate an alternative form of the essay (or an approved practical project), your essay should describe the state of the art of some narrow research area within the area of your course. The essay would include such topics as
- The problem/need
- The state of the art in addressing the problem and the need
- Limitations of current approaches
- Future research questions

The details of the structure of the essay should be negotiated with the organisers.

The essay is expected to demonstrate achievement at a graduate level, as in other 400-level courses. The assessment of the essay will be based on criteria such as
- Demonstrated understanding of appropriate research literature.
- Clear exposition of the issue addressed, the approaches presented in the papers that were read.
- Demonstrated understanding of the relationships between the approaches presented in papers, comparing and contrasting the approaches, not simply describing each paper separately.
- Insightful discussion of the limitations of the approaches and the outstanding problems that still need to be addressed
- Well written (spelling, grammar, clarity, structure) with appropriate referencing of the literature.

Rules & Policies

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study.

Find out about academic progress and restricted enrolment at http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.

The University's statutes and policies are available at http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the Calendar webpage at http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar (See Section C).

Further information about the University's academic processes can be found on the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic

All students are expected to be familiar with the following regulations and policies, which are available from the school web site:

Grievances
Student and Staff Conduct
Meeting the Needs of Students with Disabilities
Student Support

The School of Engineering and Computer Science strives to anticipate all problems associated with its courses, laboratories and equipment. We hope you will find that your courses meet your expectations of a quality learning experience.

If you think we have overlooked something or would like to make a suggestion feel free to talk to your course organiser or lecturer.

Course Outline as PDF