UNIT OVERVIEW

Introduction

This unit is a Masters unit in the Information Systems discipline. Business intelligence underpins good strategically focussed decision making within forward thinking organisations by providing mechanisms for organisations to analyse, create and extract meaningful information to support targeted and strategic decision making from the large volumes of data that organisations produce.

The Business Intelligence unit is designed to prepare students to critically consider, understand and apply the concepts associated with Business Intelligence:

- through exposure to organisational situations and
- through engagement with academic literature and practitioner publications

The unit includes studying the suite of technologies, applications, concepts and approaches that are used by organisations to collect, store, analyse and leverage their data and information for strategic and business advantage.

Students will develop understanding and ability to analyse, design and apply business intelligence concepts and strategies within organisational contexts.

The teaching strategy follows a student-centred learning model. Students work collaboratively on case study analysis and problem solving in a series of workshops throughout the semester, supported by the lecturer. Peer and self-evaluation of student work is an important feature of the program.

Prerequisites

None

Unit Weight
12.5% of one academic year

**Teaching Pattern**

Problem Based Learning Workshops: 9 x 3 hr workshops (weeks 3 - 11)

**Unit Content**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Pre-workshop and resources</th>
<th>Workshop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Intro to the unit</td>
<td>Module 1</td>
<td>team preparation: case study #1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Academic Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“The problem”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Collaborative problem analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Business Intelligence: concepts and role</td>
<td>Module 2</td>
<td>Explore the problem</td>
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<td>Case study #1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>team preparation: case study #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Corporate, IT and BI strategy</td>
<td>Module 3</td>
<td>Explore the problem</td>
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<td>Case study #2</td>
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<td>team preparation: case study #3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>BI approaches and methodologies</td>
<td>Module 4</td>
<td>Explore the problem</td>
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<td>Case study #3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>team preparation: case study #4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>BI applications and technologies</td>
<td>Module 5</td>
<td>Explore the problem</td>
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<td>Case study #4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>team preparation for case study #5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Strategy for Implementing BI</td>
<td>Module 6</td>
<td>Explore the problem</td>
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<td>Case study #5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Briefing on the problem</td>
<td>Module 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Solving the problem</td>
<td>Module 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Solving the problem</td>
<td>Module 9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For more information see the section titled 'Content' on the unit website.

**Prior Knowledge and/or Skills**

No prerequisites

**Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Critically analyse Business Intelligence (BI) as it is presented in the literature, understand and articulate key concepts of BI and discuss the strategic role of BI in modern organisations.
2. Recognise and examine the connections between corporate business strategy, IT/ICT strategy and BI strategy and the implications for planning BI business strategy including major issues in implementing BI
3. Critically analyse and evaluate BI approaches/methodologies, be able to differentiate between them and make decisions about appropriate approaches and methodologies for different organisation contexts.
4. Identify BI applications and technologies available in the market, critically analyse and review vendor offerings and make evidence-based decisions on capabilities and solutions that will meet the business needs of an organisation context.
5. Plan a BI strategy for an organisation that is aligned with business and IT strategic priorities and takes into account organisation context, contribution to business value and potential risks and benefits.
6. Work collaboratively and communicate their ideas effectively in a variety of contexts, including face-to-face meetings, online discussion and written reports.

**Generic graduate attributes**
### Attribute

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Descriptor from Generic Attributes of Graduates of the University of Tasmania</th>
<th>Unit Specifics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Knowledge                  | Graduates will have an in-depth knowledge in their chosen field of study and the ability to apply that knowledge in practice. They will be prepared for life-long learning in pursuit of personal and professional development | Knowledge will be developed through independent and team-based research and the application of technical information to problem solving:  
- Examine, analyse and apply business intelligence tools, applications, architectures and methodologies.  
- Understand and embed business intelligence strategically in organisational settings.  
- Engage and situate learning within the literature. |
| Communication skills       | Graduates will be able to communicate effectively across a range of contexts | Written and oral communications skills will be extended through opportunities to work with others in teams and through feedback and assessment on a range of written work, both individual pieces and a group report. |
| Problem-Solving Skills     | Graduates will be effective problem-solvers, capable of applying logical, critical and creative thinking to a range of problems. They will have developed competencies in information literacy | Problem solving skills will be developed by a structured process of interpreting case study problems, followed by a 'real world' problem solving exercise requiring students to define a problem in the context of the unit and develop a feasible and evidence-based solution. |

### UNIT ASSESSMENT

**Assessment Pattern**

Internal (70%), Exam (30%)

**Assessment Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peer and Self Review</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Fridays (module 2-6) &amp; 21/5 for problem solution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Friday 11.55pm, May 20 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leader Report</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Friday 11.55pm after leading the group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Exercise</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>11.55pm May 20 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>University Examination Period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assessment Items**

**Item 1**  
**Title:** Peer and Self Review  
**Type:** In-Semester - individual assignment  
**Task Length:** not applicable  
**Weighting:** 10%  
**Links to Learning Outcomes:** 1,6  
**Due:** Fridays (module 2-6) & 21/5 for problem solution  
**Description:** Students will be required to submit via MyLO regular peer and self assessments for modules 2 though 6 by 11.55pm on each Friday following the workshop. Students will also submit a peer and self assessment for the group problem solution (assessment item 5) by 11.55pm Friday May 20 2011.

**Item 2**  
**Title:** Portfolio  
**Type:** In-Semester - individual project  
**Task Length:** not applicable  
**Weighting:** 20%  
**Links to Learning Outcomes:** 1-5  
**Due:** Friday 11.55pm, May 20 2011  
**Description:** Students will be required to submit a personal portfolio giving evidence of their research and their contribution during the course of this unit. The portfolio applies to both the workshop material and their contribution to the problem solutions

**Item 3**  
**Title:** Leader Report  
**Type:** In-Semester - individual project
Task Length: not applicable
Weighting: 20%
Links to Learning Outcomes: 1-5
Due: Friday 11.55pm after leading the group
Description: Students will work in groups of 5. For workshops 2 to 6, each student will take a turn leading the group. The leader will be responsible to lead the team so they complete the case study workshop task. At the completion of the workshop the leader is to prepare a report and submit it for marking.

Item 4
Title: Practical Exercise
Type: In-Semester - group project
Task Length: not applicable
Weighting: 20%
Links to Learning Outcomes: 1-6
Due: 11.55pm May 20 2011
Description: Students are to present their solution to a 'real world' organisation problem. A high level description of the problem will posed in workshop 1 and students will be briefed in workshop 7. Students will be allocated to a group for this exercise.

Item 5
Title: Exam
Type: Formal Examination
Task Length: 2 hours
Weighting: 30%
Links to Learning Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4
Due: University Examination Period
Description: BI Theory Exam in University Examination Period

See the 'Assessment' section in unit website for more detailed information about assessment items.

How your Final Grade will be determined

Overall assessment will be based on the student's performance throughout the semester as well as in a formal examination. In order to achieve a pass (or better) result, a student must obtain:

1. at least 45% of the total mark for in-semester assessment items
2. at least 45% of the mark for the formal examination
3. at least 50% of the overall mark

Overall assessment will be based on the student's performance throughout the semester. In order to achieve a pass (or better) result, a student must obtain:

- at least 45% of the combined mark for assessment item 1, 3 & 4
- at least 45% of the combined mark for assessment item 2 & 5
- at least 50% of the overall mark

UNIT RESOURCES

Unit Web Site

This unit is Web Dependent: content & communication. This means that you will need to use the Web for this unit. The unit website contains unit information and resources. The unit website is accessed from http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/. You will need to use your university email pop account username and password to log on to the MyLO system. Once authenticated by the system your personalised MyLO Learning Online area will be displayed. It contains links to the websites that you have permission to access - including the website for this unit.

If you are not able to access the unit website, please contact the University IT help desk:

- Entrance Level, Morris Miller Library, Sandy Bay Campus;
- Entrance Level, Launceston Campus Library, Newnham Campus.
Phone: 6226 1818 and 1300 304 903.
The 1300 number is a local call from within Tas, with the exception of mobiles.
Email: servicedesk@utas.edu.au
Website: http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html

Prescribed Text


Software

The software that you will need to access the unit website and to study this unit, including general purpose software such as word processors, is provided on the computers in the School's computing labs. If you intend to use software on other computers please check that the versions are compatible. For this unit, students will use team specific web-pages on a UTAS wiki to:

- document the planning, preparation and contributions made to the team leader report (assessment item 3) for
document the development of their team solution and their contribution to the group report (assessment item 5).
The Tasmanian University Union (TUU) may also be able to assist.

The School reserves the right to alter the details contained in this Unit Outline. Students will be advised of changes to the outline via their University email account and it remains the responsibility of the student to check their email for such changes.

**Occupational Health and Safety**

The university is committed to providing a safe and secure teaching and learning environment. For more information see [http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/hr/ohs/pol_proc/](http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/hr/ohs/pol_proc/)

**University Services and Support**

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life planning issues, disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you are advised to raise these with your lecturer in the first instance.

The University has staff available to assist you, such as the:

- Learning Development Advisor
- Student Counselor
- Careers Advisor
- Disability Officer

For more information and contact details see the Services and Support section on the University 'Current Students' web page: [http://www.utas.edu.au/students/](http://www.utas.edu.au/students/)

**GENERAL ASSESSMENT**

**Approach to Learning**

The University is committed to high standards of professional conduct in all activities, and holds its commitment and responsibilities to its students as being of paramount importance. Likewise, it holds expectations about the responsibilities students have as they pursue their studies within the special environment the University offers.

The University’s Code of Conduct for Teaching and Learning states:

Students are expected to participate actively and positively in the teaching/learning environment. They must attend classes when and as required, strive to maintain steady progress within the subject or unit framework, comply with workload expectations, and submit required work on time.

You are expected to spend about 130 hrs studying in this unit - this includes attendance at scheduled teaching sessions. (For a 13 week semester this is, on average, 10 hr/wk.) This is the amount of study time that the ‘typical’ student will need to reach the level of competence and understanding required to fulfil the unit objectives. You are expected to:

- attend all scheduled teaching sessions, unless otherwise notified by the unit coordinator
- prepare for, and actively participate in all scheduled teaching sessions
- complete the assigned learning tasks
- review what has been learnt
- complete assessment items and submit them on time
- access and be familiar with the information and resources available on the unit website
- seek help from teaching staff if you have any questions or difficulties in studying this unit


It is expected that students will familiarise themselves with access and use of the MyLO system operated by the University for the electronic delivery of course materials, and for various forms of communication.

It is expected that students will consult email sent to their University email address at least twice a week for notices relating to the administration of the unit, and for notification of the results of assignments.

It is expected that students will read the background material specified in the course curriculum, will actively attend and participate in tutorials, and be prepared to discuss relevant issues arising with tutors, lecturers and fellow students.
Student Expectations of the Unit

Students enrolled in this Unit may reasonably expect the following:

1. To be able to contact a lecturer or tutor by electronic mail, to raise issues arising in the unit, either relating to content or student performance within the unit.
2. Subject to availability, to be able to discuss such issues in person with the lecturer or tutor.
3. That assignments will be marked and the marks will normally be returned within 3 weeks of due dates.
4. That all relevant notices regarding the administration of the unit, including any necessary changes, will be communicated to all students enrolled in the unit via email.

These expectations are in addition to those specified in relevant University regulations.

Plagiarism

Unless specifically stated in the specification of the assessment item provided on the unit website, it is required that:

- work submitted by a student is the work of that student alone OR
- where the assessment item is to be completed by a group of students, the work submitted by the group of students is the work of that group of students alone.

While students are encouraged to discuss the assignments in this unit and to engage in active learning from each other, it is important that they are also aware of the University’s policy on plagiarism. Plagiarism is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example downloading an essay wholly or in part from the internet, copying another student's work or using an author's words or ideas without citing the source.

"Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example, using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source, using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation, copying another student's work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at http://www.academicintegrity.utas.edu.au.

The intentional copying of someone else’s work as one’s own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see http://www.utas.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/23991/ord91.pdf.

The University and any persons authorised by the University may submit your assessable works to a plagiarism checking service, to obtain a report on possible instances of plagiarism. Assessable works may also be included in a reference database. It is a condition of this arrangement that the original author’s permission is required before a work within the database can be viewed."

It is important that you understand this statement on plagiarism. Should you require clarification please see your unit coordinator or lecturer. Useful resources on academic integrity, including what it is and how to maintain it, are also available at: http://www.academicintegrity.utas.edu.au

Referencing

The preferred text referencing systems for the School is the Harvard system (also referred to as the author-date system). In your written work you will need to support your ideas by referring to scholarly literature, works of art and/or inventions. For information on presentation of assignments, including referencing styles: http://utas.libguides.com/referencing

It is important that you understand how to correctly refer to the work of others and maintain academic integrity. Failure to appropriately acknowledge the ideas of others constitutes academic dishonesty (plagiarism), a matter considered by the University of Tasmania as a serious offence. The university document on plagiarism contains information about referencing the work or ideas of others (see http://www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism/).

Submissions

The details of the submission method (paper, electronic or other) for each assignment will be supplied in a separate assignment specification sheet. All in-semester assignment submissions (including electronic submissions) are to include an Assignment Cover Sheet which includes a statement confirming that the submission is your own work. The Assignment Cover Sheet is available from the School Help Desk in Launceston and Hobart, and on the School's web site: http://www.cis.utas.edu.au/cisview/resources.jsp.
Students must take responsibility for the correct submission of their assignments. Students are expected to adhere to the following procedure for submission:

- Submitted files MUST be checked by the student to ensure that correct submission of the file has been undertaken.
- Students are expected to notify the Lecturer WITHIN TWO HOURS of submission if their files have not been submitted correctly.
- Students must take responsibility for safely backing up of their own files during the academic year to ensure that no files are permanently lost.

Extensions

Assessment items will not be accepted after the due date except under the conditions stated in the School policy on late assessment. http://www.cis.utas.edu.au/downloads/ExtensionPolicy.pdf (PDF - 100KB).

Review of Assessment and Appeals

1. It is expected that students will adhere to the following policy for review of any piece of continuous assessment.
   a. Within 5 days of the release of the assessment result, the student should request an appointment with the Lecturer. The student should be prepared to discuss specifically which section of the marking criteria they are disputing and why they consider the mark is inappropriate.
   b. Following this discussion, students may request a formal remark of the original submission (in accordance with Rule of Academic Assessment 111, clause 22.1). This remark will be undertaken, where practicable, by an alternative assessor.
2. Students may also request a review of the final result in a unit. The request and payment must be made within 10 days from the date of the result notification. Students are referred to Rule of Academic Assessment 111, clause 23 at http://www.utas.edu.au/university-council/university-governance/rules and http://www.studentcentre.utas.edu.au/examinations_and_results/results/result_review_results.htm.

Complaints Procedure

It is expected that students will adhere to the following policy for making any complaint or grievance directly related to a Unit:

a. In the first instance, students are to approach the Lecturer or Unit Coordinator concerned and arrange a time to speak with them about their concern.

b. If an issue remains unresolved, the student should approach the Head of School and arrange a time to speak with them about their concern.

If the School's internal policy of complaints is unable to resolve an issue, students should consult Ordinance 8 Student Complaints for further direction, see http://acserv.admin.utas.edu.au/complaints_info.html

Formal Examination

The formal examination is conducted by the University Registrar. The 'Current Students' section on the university website contains information about the conduct of, and timetable for, formal examinations.

Final Grade

Passing grades will be awarded based on the AVCC guidelines:

- PP at least 50% of the overall mark but less than 60%
- CR at least 60% of the overall mark but less than 70%
- DN at least 70% of the overall mark but less than 80%
- HD at least 80% of the overall mark

In order to comply with the benchmarks set by the Faculty of Science, Engineering & Technology for distribution of grades in units, both the in-semester and examination marks that students obtain may be adjusted either upwards or downwards. See http://fcms.its.utas.edu.au/scieng/scieng/policies.asp for details of the Faculty Assessment Guidelines.