Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator:
Professor Benoit A. Aubert
benoit.aubert@vuw.ac.nz

Lecturers:
Professor Benoit A. Aubert
benoit.aubert@vuw.ac.nz

Dr. Jean-Grégoire Bernard
jean-gregoire.bernard@vuw.ac.nz

Dr. Brenda Chawner
brenda.chawner@vuw.ac.nz

Dr. David Johnstone
david.johnstone@vuw.ac.nz

Dr. Gillian Oliver
gillian.oliver@vuw.ac.nz

Trimester Dates: From Monday 2nd March to 7th June 2015.

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 13th March 2015.

2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 15th May. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an ‘Application for Associate Dean’s Permission to Withdraw Late’ including supporting documentation. The application form is available from either of the Faculty’s Student Customer Service Desks or online.
Class Times and Room Numbers

Thursdays from 4:00 – 7:00pm in RH 421 (Level 4 Rutherford House).

Course Delivery

Weekly seminars: See “Class times and room numbers”, above.

Expected Workload

To achieve satisfactory grades, you will need to spend at least 12.5 hours per week on INFO512, including time spent in class. Some aspects of the course will require less time, whereas others will require slightly more, depending on your previous knowledge of the topic. Before each session, please read the material for the week’s topic and be ready to discuss the readings and other set work prepared for the class.

Prescription

An introduction to establishing the theoretical contribution of a piece of research.

Course Learning Objectives

| Course Learning Objectives (CLOs) Students who pass this course should be able to: |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 Demonstrate advanced understanding of the different types of theory, their nature, and their role in research. |
| 2 Critically assess the types of literature review and explain their respective functions in the research process. |
| 3 Identify and explain the contributions of theory within a given paradigm to specific fields of research. |
| 4 Demonstrate the ability to carry out theory building in a research paper. |

Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment items and workload per item</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>CLOs</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Review of a theory development paper (max 1500 words)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1 to 3</td>
<td>27-3-2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Review of an empirical paper, assessing specifically the theoretical contribution of the paper (maximum 1500 words)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1 to 3</td>
<td>30-4-2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 A draft research paper emphasizing the theoretical contribution aspect. (maximum 2000 words)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1 to 4</td>
<td>11-6-2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mandatory Course Requirements

Reading list

5-3-2015 Week 1: The purpose(s) of theory in applied social sciences (JG Bernard)


Complementary readings:

12-3-2015 Week 2: Diversity and disciplinary cores (JG Bernard)


Complementary readings:


**19-3-2015 Week 3 What is a theory? (JG Bernard)**


**26-3-2015 Week 4 What is a theoretical contribution? (B. Aubert)**


**2-4-2015 Week 5 Joining an academic conversation (B. Chawner)**


23-4-2015 and 30-4-2015 Weeks 6 and 7 Identifying, evaluating, and Reviewing the literature (B. Chawner)

Note: the organization of these two weeks and the allocation of readings will be provided after the beginning of the trimester.


7-5-2015 Week 8 Theory building – general (B. Aubert)


14-5-2015 Week 9 Theory building using cases (G. Oliver)


21-5-2015 Week 10 Process theory (B. Aubert)

28-5-2015 Week 11 Multilevel theories (B. Aubert)


4-6-2015 Week 12 Ethics (Theory and Practice) (D. Johnstone)


Additional material (for information)

Theory building with Typologies


**Tools for theory building**


**Link to general information**

For general information about course-related matters, go to [http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information)

**Note to Students**

Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and academic audit. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of VBS programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

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