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.

Trimester Dates:
From 29th February 2016 to 10th June 2016

Withdrawal from Course
1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 11th March 2016.

2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 13th May 2016. 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.
Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator:
Professor Benoit A. Aubert
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Lecturers:
Professor Benoit A. Aubert  RH 517
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Dr. Jean-Grégoire Bernard  RH 518
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Dr. Brenda Chawner  RH 426
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Dr. David Johnstone  RH 531
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Dr. Gillian Oliver  RH 422
gillian.oliver@vuw.ac.nz

Professor Carol Saunders  RH 419
carol.saunders@nau.edu

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.

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>1-4-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2  Review of an empirical paper, assessing specifically the theoretical contribution of the paper (max 1500 words)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1 to 3</td>
<td>29-4-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3  A draft research paper emphasizing the theoretical contribution aspect (max 2000 words)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1 to 4</td>
<td>10-6-2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mandatory Course Requirements
Students must submit all pieces of assessment by the due date.


If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Reading list
3-3-2016 Week 1: The purpose(s) of theory in applied social sciences (C Saunders)

Complementary readings:

10-3-2016 Week 2: Diversity and disciplinary cores (C Saunders)
  • Orlikowski, W.J. et S.C. Iacono, Research Commentary: Desperately Seeking the “IT” in IT Research—A Call to Theorizing the IT Artifact. Information Systems Research, 12, 2 (2001), 121-134.


Complementary readings:


17-3-2016 Week 3 What is a theory? (C Saunders)


Complementary readings:


31-3-2016 Week 4 What is a theoretical contribution? (B. Aubert)


7-4-2016 Week 5 Joining an academic conversation (B. Chawner)

14-4-2016 and 21-4-20165 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.

5-5-2016 Week 8 Theory building – general (B. Aubert)

12-5-2016 Week 9 Theory building using cases (G. Oliver)


19-5-2016 Week 10 Process theory (JG Bernard)


26-5-2016 Week 11 Theory building with Typologies (JG Bernard)


2-6-2016 Week 12 Ethics (Theory and Practice) (D. Johnstone)


**Additional material (for information)**

**Multilevel theories**


**Tools for theory building**


**Student feedback**

Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php).
Communication of Additional Information
Communication is normally via email to all class members.

Link to general information
For general information about course-related matters, go to 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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