



Special Topics – IS&T Honours

BEYOND THE ORDINARY

“Never before in history has innovation offered promise of so much to so many in so short a time.” (Bill Gates)

Information Systems & Technology is by its very nature a discipline that is characterised by change. The frontiers are constantly being pushed out as new and exciting opportunities are developed. However with this comes the need to be aware of emerging trends, issues, and how to deal with the constant state of flux that is experienced in IS&T.

This module will explore some of the issues and implications of emerging trends within Information Systems & Technology. The objective is not to give students an in depth knowledge of all trends, but rather to examine some of them in detail, and provide students with the tools and frameworks to explore other topics within the discipline in future.



TOPICS COVERED

- PODCASTING.
- GLOBAL IT TRENDS
- MICROBLOGGING
- GLOBAL TECH REPORT.

“All is flux – nothing stays still” (Heraclitus 6 BC)

COURSE DELIVERY

This course is to be delivered in a unique way. For the first time at UKZN and possibly for any university in South Africa, a course will be delivered using only technology mediated mediums. These will include some or all of the following;

- Blogs
- Threaded discussion
- Wiki's
- Podcasting
- 3D Virtual Worlds
- Skype

ADVANTAGE OF DELIVERY

Computer mediated forms of teaching and learning are increasing at a rapid rate all over the world. There are numerous reasons for this, but one of the more important is because it supports a social constructivist style of learning. This means that students are able to build their knowledge together, rather than simply have it “talked at them” individually. Also it allows for increased options when it comes to the timing and location of the learning experience. In addition it opens up many opportunities to use a rich variety of delivery mediums, as listed above.

“THIS IS REALLY A WONDERFUL PROJECT YOU ARE PUTTING TOGETHER” PROF. TIM SHEA (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS)

COURSE LECTURERS

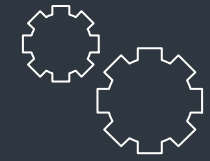
Unlike traditional courses, Special Topics “lectures” will all take place virtually. This means that all meetings and formal learning experiences (lectures) will take place through some technologically supported platform.

The course will be presented by 3 main lecturers – Craig Blewett (UKZN), Rose Quilling (UKZN) and Tim Shea (University of Massachusetts). In addition other specialists will be presenting some of the material during the course live or via podcast.



STUDENT TEAMS

Another exciting aspect of the course is that students may also be teamed with students from universities or locations outside of your own physical location. This opens up many interesting challenges re. team work, but virtual teams are another hallmark of future trends in IT. The course will offer students an experience in dealing with virtual teams and will expose you to the rich opportunities of learning in this type of environment.



COURSE DETAILS

Course Name :Special Topics in IS&T
Course Code: ISTN431 WC
Location: Virtual
Assessment: Throughout the course



SHOULD I DO THIS MODULE?

- You should do this module if;
- You're prepared to work consistently throughout the semester
 - You have access to a computer with broadband and webcam with sound
 - You are self-motivated and willing to learn, discover and share
 - You are excited by new developments and new challenges



CONTACT US

Should you need any further details then contact the Course Coordinators;

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