School of Engineering and ICT

Discipline of Information and Communication Technology

Unit Outline

KXO222 Business and Information Analysis

March - June 2015

Shanghai, China

Unit Coordinator

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Teaching Staff

Mr Toby Peng
UNIT OVERVIEW

Introduction
In this unit students will gain knowledge and skills in problem structuring methods that are suitable for solving, or at least improving, social and organisational problem situations. The methods are suitable for the situations of complexity, uncertainty and conflict that are often present in contemporary business and society. The unit is suitable for future or practicing consultants, managers, and business and systems analysts. Although students are required to reason abstractly and creatively, there is no specialist prerequisite knowledge required for this unit.

Prerequisites
Any two introductory units from any discipline

Unit Weight
12.5% of one academic year

Learning expectations
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.

Attendance/performance requirements and teaching and learning strategies
This unit has been designed with the expectation that students will attend all lectures as well as their allocated tutorials. The tutorials have been designed to complement and reinforce the teaching material delivered in the lectures.

Communication
Communication for this unit will be through the unit's News page on MyLO. Urgent notices may be also sent to your official UTas email account.

Note regarding emails: Please use your University of Tasmania (UTas) email account when sending emails to your lecturers or UTas administration. This assists in verifying your identity, and in following up on any requests. Please include your name (in pinyin), your UTas username, UTas ID number, and the unit code.

Teaching Pattern
Teaching is grouped into 13 modules which include: 19 lectures, and 12 tutorials.

Unit Content
The nature of organisational problems, including problems related to information systems in organisations, hard and soft management science / operational research and systems thinking.

Specific topics covered:
- Problem-Solving Strategies
- Correct Problem Definition
- Heuristics for Successful Problem Solving
- The Characteristics, Attitudes, and Environment Necessary for Effective Problem Solving
- Gathering Information on the Problem
- Kepner-Tregoe Problem Analysis
- Breaking Down the Barriers to Generating Ideas
- Generating Solutions
- Deciding the Course of Action
- Implementing the Solution
- Evaluation
- Troubleshooting

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

Prior Knowledge and/or Skills
There are no prerequisites.
Learning Outcomes

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

1. Understand the nature of organisational problems
2. Understand the differences between a “hard” or scientific approach to organisational problem solving and a more holistic, systems oriented approach to understanding and structuring organisational problems.
3. Understand the nature and usefulness of systems thinking.
4. Understand and apply a number of effective methodologies for formulating, structuring and improving organisational problem situations.

Generic graduate attributes

Successful completion of this unit supports your development of course learning outcomes, which describe what a graduate of a course knows, understands and is able to do. The course learning outcomes for all the ICT degrees can be found via: http://www.utas.edu.au/ict/new-courses. Course learning outcomes are developed with reference to national discipline standards, Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), any professional accreditation requirements and the University of Tasmania’s Graduate Quality Statement.

The University of Tasmania experience unlocks the potential of individuals. Our graduates are equipped and inspired to shape and respond to the opportunities and challenges of the future as accomplished communicators, highly regarded professionals and culturally competent citizens in local, national, and global society. University of Tasmania graduates acquire subject and multidisciplinary knowledge and skills and develop creative and critical literacies and skills of inquiry. Our graduates recognise and critically evaluate issues of social responsibility, ethical conduct and sustainability. Through respect for diversity and by working in individual and collaborative ways, our graduates reflect the values of the University of Tasmania.

Alterations to the unit as a result of student feedback

This unit has been developed in part on the feedback from students. A major change introduced last year was to the tutorials where students are now required to read a specified chapter of the textbook and answer questions before the tutorial. This change means that student arrive at their tutorial ready to discuss their answers and are better able to meaningfully contribute to the discussions. Your feedback through the eVALUate survey at the conclusion of this semester would be most welcome.
UNIT ASSESSMENT

Assessment Pattern

Internal (60%), Exam (40%)

Assessment Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1 - Tutorial Answers &amp; Discussions</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>9:00pm (Shanghai-time) Sunday before each Tutorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2 - Problem Analysis</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>10:00pm (Shanghai-time) Tuesday, 5th May, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 3 - Define, Generate, and Decide</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>10:00pm (Shanghai-time) Tuesday, 2nd June, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal Examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>The final exam is conducted by the University of Tasmania's Student Centre in the formal examination period. AIEN's Teaching and Learning Administration Office will provide you with the specific date, time and location of your exam.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment Items

**Item 1**

**Title:** Assignment 1 - Tutorial Answers & Discussions  
**Type:** In-Semester - learning tasks  
**Task Length:** 1 x A4 sheet (for each tutorial)  
**Weighting:** 15%  
**Links to Learning Outcomes:** 1, 2, 3, 4  
**Due:** 9:00pm (Shanghai-time) Sunday before each Tutorial  
**How To submit:** Tutorial answers are to be submitted as Word (doc or docx) files using the provided templates into the appropriate week’s Dropbox folder on the KXO222 unit’s MyLO website.  
**Description:** Each week students will be required to answer questions related to the tutorial topic. Answers are to be submitted to MyLO by the Sunday night before the tutorial. Each student will be required to discuss their answers as well as participate in the discussion of other students’ answers during the tutorials. For full details please see the 'Tutorial Requirements and Schedule' sheet available from the Tutorial section of the Content Browser on MyLO.

**Item 2**

**Title:** Assignment 2 - Problem Analysis  
**Type:** In-Semester - individual assignment  
**Task Length:** Approximately 1,000 words  
**Weighting:** 15%  
**Links to Learning Outcomes:** 1, 3, 4  
**Due:** 10:00pm (Shanghai-time) Tuesday, 5th May, 2015  
**How To submit:** The assignment work is to be presented in a business report and must be submitted as a Word (doc or docx) or unrestricted pdf file via the 'Assignment 2' Dropbox folder on the KXO222 unit’s MyLO website.  
**Description:** Students will be required to perform a problem analysis on a provided case study.

**Item 3**

**Title:** Assignment 3 - Define, Generate, and Decide  
**Type:** In-Semester - group assignment  
**Task Length:** Approximately 2,000 words  
**Weighting:** 30%  
**Links to Learning Outcomes:** 1, 2, 3, 4  
**Due:** 10:00pm (Shanghai-time) Tuesday, 2nd June, 2015  
**How To submit:** The assignment work is to be presented in a business report and must be submitted as a Word (doc or docx) or unrestricted pdf file via the 'Assignment 3' Dropbox folder on the KXO222 unit’s MyLO website.  
**Description:** Students will be required to define the problem, generate possible solutions, decide on and justify a solution for implementation, based on a provided case study.

**Item 4**

**Title:** Formal Examination  
**Type:** Formal Examination  
**Task Length:** 2 hours  
**Weighting:** 40%  
**Links to Learning Outcomes:** 1, 2, 3, 4  
**Due:** The final exam is conducted by the University of Tasmania’s Student Centre in the formal examination period. AIEN's Teaching and Learning Administration Office will provide you with the specific date, time and location of your exam.  
**Description:** This is a closed-book exam (No study material will be permitted to be taken into the exam)

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

Attendance Requirements

It is a requirement of your Chinese university that you attend all classes. UTAS supports this principle. It is our belief that attendance in class leads to better engagement with the subject matter and therefore to better results. Please attend all classes.
UNIT RESOURCES

Unit Web Site

This unit is Web Dependent: content. 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 of Tasmania 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 technical staff at SOU.

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 computing labs. If you intend to use software on other computers please check that the versions are compatible.
GENERAL RESOURCES

School Website

Discipline of ICT, School of Engineering and ICT - Faculty of Science, Engineering, and Technology.
http://www.utas.edu.au/ict

Faculty Website

Information and Resources for Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology students are available on the faculty website at: http://www.utas.edu.au/scieng

University Website

Information and Resources for 'Current Students' are available on the university website at: 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

You are encouraged to read the university's Code of Conduct for Teaching and Learning. Part A describes the 'Responsibility of the University to Students' and part B describes the 'Responsibilities of Students to the University'.


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

In your written work you will need to support your ideas by referring to scholarly literature, works of art and/or inventions. It is important that you understand how to correctly refer to the work of others, and how to 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.

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. You may also find the Academic Honesty site on MyLO of some assistance.

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 www.utas.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/23991/Ordinance-9-Student-Discipline.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

Academic misconduct

Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, allowing another student to copy work for an assignment or an examination, and any other conduct by which a student:

a. seeks to gain, for themselves or for any other person, any academic advantage or advancement to which they or that other person are not entitled; or
b. improperly disadvantages any other student.

Students engaging in any form of academic misconduct may be dealt with under the Ordinance of Student Discipline, and this can include imposition of penalties that range from a deduction/cancellation of marks to exclusion from a unit or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in Ordinance 9: Student Discipline http://www.utas.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/23991/Ordinance-9-Student-Discipline.pdf - Part 3 Academic Misconduct.

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. The University library provides information on presentation of assignments, including referencing
styles and should be referred to when completing tasks in this unit. 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. If this undertaking is not signed, the assignment will not be marked. The Assignment Cover Sheet is available on the Discipline’s web site [http://www.utas.edu.au/ict/resources](http://www.utas.edu.au/ict/resources).

Extensions

Assessment items will not be accepted after the due date except under the conditions stated in the Discipline policy on late assessment. [http://www.utas.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/231960/ExtensionPolicy.pdf](http://www.utas.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/231960/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](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](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](http://acserv.admin.utas.edu.au/complaints_info.html).

Formal Examination

The formal examination will be held at SOU, Shanghai, and is conducted by the University Registrar.

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](http://fcms.its.utas.edu.au/scieng/scieng/policies.asp) for details of the Faculty Assessment Guidelines.

Further information and assistance

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 the unit coordinator in the first instance.

There is a range of University-wide support services available to you including Student Learning Support ([http://www.utas.edu.au/student-learning/](http://www.utas.edu.au/student-learning/)) and more which can be found on the Student Support and Development page ([http://www.utas.edu.au/students/support-development](http://www.utas.edu.au/students/support-development)) of the University website.

Should you require assistance in accessing the Library, visit their website ([http://www.utas.edu.au/library/study](http://www.utas.edu.au/library/study)) for
more information.