

**BMA402
Management Honours
Seminar**

Semester 1, 2008

This unit will be offered in:

Hobart

The lecturing team responsible will be:

Dr Dallas Hanson (Lecturer-in-Charge)

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<http://www.utas.edu.au/mgmt/student.htm>

Introduction to the Unit

Academic management writing is anything that can be published in a management journal. It is therefore exceptionally wide-ranging and inherently multi-disciplinary. In order to come to terms with this it is necessary to have experience of excellent management writing that is slightly out of the mainstream. The background aim of this unit is to expose you to such writing. We focus on a number of issues including the extent that truth is possible in social research and sense-making as well as world development from the Diamond perspective. The unit is discussion-based and it is essential that you read material before it is discussed. The discussion is only as good as you make it and, assuming you do your reading and think about the issues, you can run any opinion you like.

Enrolment in the unit

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, students should not enrol in BMA units after the end of week two of semester, as the School cannot guarantee:

- that any extra assistance will be provided by the teaching team in respect of work covered in the period before enrolment; and
- that penalties will not be applied for the late submission of any piece or pieces of assessment that were due during that period.

Unit Aims and Objectives

Consistent with the policy on Generic Attributes of Graduates of the University of Tasmania, the broad objectives of this Management Honours Seminar unit include:

Knowledge

- To develop detailed understandings of sense-making, truth-claiming, and Diamond-development theories and their application to Management
- To promote interest in the social sciences and demonstrate the importance of this for Management writing
- To develop the ability to analyse and critically appraise key concepts and arguments in the evolution of wide-ranging social theory
- To use a wide range of academic skills (including research, analysis, and synthesis)
- To be able to discuss implications of theory in terms of writing theses and other Management writing

Communication Skills

- To communicate effectively using oral and written media and to present well-reasoned arguments in a logical and coherent manner
- To demonstrate excellent management theory writing
- To develop oral presentation skills through the process of presenting research seminars

Problem-Solving Skills

- To demonstrate the ability to plan, execute and evaluate written and oral assessment
- To conceptualise problems and formulate a range of solutions
- To find, acquire, evaluate, manage and use relevant information

Global Perspective

- To demonstrate an awareness of the local and global context of Management theory

Social Responsibility

- To acknowledge the social and ethical implications of social science theory and research

Prerequisites

Completion of BBus, BTourism, BBA, or equivalent, and approved entry into the Management Honours program.

Texts

Prescribed Text

All essential material will be provided.

School Publications

Students must obtain the following electronic publications which are available from the School of Management website:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/mgmt/student.htm>

Writing Assignments: A Guide

School of Management Referencing Style

Recommended Reading

Any social sciences or science theory material is useful. In fact, anything that you can incorporate into discussion is of use.

Library Resources

The library offers a variety of electronic and physical resources that may be helpful for completing assignments. The library's subject guide for management can be found at the following address:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/library/info/subj/management.html>

Flexible Learning: MyLO

MyLO software has not been incorporated into the delivery of this unit.

Assessment

In order to pass this unit you must achieve an overall mark of at least 50 per cent of the total available marks. Details of each item of Coursework are provided in the Assignment Topics section.

Method of Assessment	Value	Due Date	Length*
Coursework			
Participation in Seminars	50 marks	Various	Your contribution to discussion – including the evidence of wide reading, the number of contributions of worth and the depth of insights provided.
Essay	50 marks	12 May 2008	3000 words
Total Marks	100		

* **Word Limit:** The word count includes such items as headings, in-text references, quotes and executive summaries. It **does not** include the reference list at the end of the assignment.

Study Week

The Honours programme does not recognise the School of Management study week.

Examination

Format

There is no examination in this unit.

Special Consideration and Student Difficulties

If a student is experiencing difficulties with their studies or assignments, have personal or life planning issues, disability or illness which may affect their course of study, they are advised to raise these with their lecturer in the first instance. Students may also contact the Catalyst Officer, who will be able to help in identifying the issues that need to be addressed, give general advice, assist by liaising with academic staff, as well as referring students to any relevant University-wide support services. The Catalyst Officer is located in room 318a in the Commerce Building in Hobart and is contactable by phone on 6226 1916. There is also a range of University-wide support services available including Student Services, International Services and Learning Development. Please refer to the *Current Students* homepage at: <http://www.utas.edu.au/students/index.html>

Should a student require assistance in accessing the Library, visit their website for more information at <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/>

Students who have completed their examinations and who feel that they have been disadvantaged due to illness or other circumstances affecting their study, may fill out a form to request that their lecturer takes this into consideration when marking the examination. Forms should be submitted directly to the relevant school, accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation, as soon as possible after the completion of the examination. Granting of special consideration is at the discretion of the lecturer and school. The relevant

form can be found at the following website:

http://www.studentcentre.utas.edu.au/examinations_and_results/forms_files/index.htm#eits

Students with a non-English speaking background may be permitted to take a bilingual dictionary into an exam. This dictionary must not be annotated, that is, must have no notes written in it. In order to use a bilingual dictionary students must request permission from the Student Centre.

Submission of Coursework

Lodging Coursework

All Coursework must have the School of Management Assignment Cover Sheet and Title Page attached, both of which are available as a blank template from the School of Management website:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/mgmt/student.htm>

All assignments must include the tutor's name on the assignment Cover Sheets when they are handed in. If this is not done the assignment will not be accepted and therefore marked.

Please remember that you are responsible for lodging your Coursework on or before the due date. We suggest you keep a copy. Even in the most 'perfect' of systems, items sometimes go astray.

Note that you may also be required to submit an electronic copy of your Coursework. More details of this will be given in Lectures.

Hobart students: Lodge in assignment box at room 316, Commerce & Economics Building.

Launceston students: Lodge in assignment box beside room A170.

All coursework must be handed in at 2.00 pm on the due date.

Late Coursework

Written Work

Extensions will only be granted on medical or compassionate grounds and will not be granted because of work or other commitments. Requests for extensions should be **made in writing** to the lecturer-in-charge prior to the due date. Medical certificates or other evidence must be attached and must contain information which justifies the extension sought.

Late assignments which have **not** been granted an extension will, at the lecturer's discretion, be penalised by deducting ten per cent of total marks for each full day overdue.

Assignments submitted more than six days late will normally not be accepted by the lecturer-in-charge.

Tests

Students who are unable to sit a test on medical or compassionate grounds (work or other commitments are not considered 'compassionate grounds') may request that they be permitted to submit alternative Coursework.

Please do not expect a special test to be held for you if you choose to go on holidays or undertake other activities on the scheduled date. If you do need to request alternative Coursework, you should do so in writing to the lecturer-in-charge prior to the due date. Medical certificates or other evidence must be attached and must contain information which justifies the request. The telephone number of the doctor should also be included.

Return of Coursework

Coursework will be returned during classes or it can be collected from the lecturer's or tutor's room at nominated times; it will not be available from the School's offices.

Plagiarism

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; or
- 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.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/index.html>.

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/universitycouncil/legislation/ord9.pdf>

The University reserves the right to submit (or to require you to submit) assignments to online plagiarism detection software, and might then retain a copy of the assignment on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking.

Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S)

The University is committed to providing a safe and secure teaching and learning environment. In addition to specific requirements of this unit you should refer to the University's policy at: http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/hr/ohs/pol_proc/ohs.pdf

Privacy Policy and Notice

The School of Management takes the utmost care to protect the privacy and security of your personal information and to ensure its accuracy.

Assessment

Theory Seminars

Due Date: Various; as per the seminar schedule at the end of this unit outline

Length: Two- to three-hour seminar sessions.

Value: 50% of marks for the unit. Assessment will be based on your contribution to discussion, the evidence of wide reading you provide, the number of contributions of worth you make, and depth of insights provided.

The coursework for this unit involves attending a series of reading-based seminars throughout the semester. In these seminars you will discuss material that has been provided which reflect the best social science research of the last generation. It is essential that you are able to discuss the issues outlined as significant in the readings. Every participant will contribute to discussion regularly. The basic rule is courtesy at all times but within that allowance for free expression of opinion.

You are also expected to attend and participate in the Faculty and School of Management Seminar Series.

Essay

Due Date: 12 May 2008

Length: 3000 words

Value: 50%

Essay 1: “**Truth is what you say it is in social science.**”

Discuss this statement. Find examples of social science research to explain your opinion on this issue.

Seminar Schedule

Semester 1, 2008

Week	Start of Week	Material	Broad Topic	Due Dates
1	29 February	Thomas Kuhn	Paradigms	
3	14 March	The Science Wars	Science and truth	
6	11 April	Research on Age	Truth again	
7	18 April	Friendly Fire – Snook	Sense-making theory	
9	2 May	Jared Diamond – Guns Germs and Steel	Big picture development theory	Essay due 12 May
11	16 May	David Harvey	Postmodernity?	

A Calendar/Study Planner showing dates is available from School of Management website at <http://www.utas.edu.au/mgmt/student.htm>.