

## Dimensions of the Information Sector (7935)

### Unit Outline 2009

#### Faculty of Information Sciences and Engineering

#### University of Canberra

*Australian Government Higher Education (CRICOS)*

*Registered Provider number: #00212K*

This Unit Outline must be read in conjunction with:

- a) *Studying at the University of Canberra: A Guide to Policies and Procedures*, which sets out University-wide policies and procedures, including information on matters such as plagiarism, grade descriptors, moderation, feedback and deferred exams, and is available at <http://www.canberra.edu.au/student-services>
- b) *Guide to Student Services at the University of Canberra*, and is available at <http://www.canberra.edu.au/student-services>
- c) Any additional information specified in section 6f.

#### 1: General Information

- 1a Unit title:** Dimensions of the Information Sector
- 1b Unit number:** 7935
- 1c Semester and year offered:** Semester 1, 2009
- 1d Credit point value:** 3
- 1e Unit level:** PG
- 1f Name of Unit Convener and contact details (including telephone and email):**  
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- Name of Unit Moderator and contact details (including telephone and email):**  
Sally Burford, 1 C 108, 6201 5958  
[sally.burford@canberra.edu.au](mailto:sally.burford@canberra.edu.au)
- 1g Administrative contact details (including name, location, telephone and email):**  
School of ISE Office, 11 B 14, 6201 2417 or 6201 2153  
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**2: Academic Content****2a Unit description and learning outcomes****Syllabus**

The purpose of this unit is to establish a framework for the study of information and its associated professions by examining the dimensions of the information sector. The unit begins by examining the types of organisations and the types of roles that information professionals occupy. During this analysis various dimension of the sector emerge:

- the forms, attributes and life cycle of information including data, images, language
- the media / systems used to contain and communicate information;
- the value, uses and pitfalls of information in organisational metabolism, decision support, social debate, cultural expression and scholarship;
- the relationships between the various information disciplines;
- the legal dimension of the information professions;
- the professional dimension of the sector covering issues of ethics and professional standards.

**Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of the unit students will be able to:

- critique information articles, proposals or artefacts from a range of dimensions;
- analyse and integrate various dimensions of information in a specific professional setting;
- discover and describe the use, value and impacts of potential information products and services in a particular organisational setting.

**Generic Skills**

A link to the generic skills expected of UC graduates is shown below.

[https://guard.canberra.edu.au/policy/policy.php?pol\\_id=3030](https://guard.canberra.edu.au/policy/policy.php?pol_id=3030)

**2b Prerequisites and / or co-requisites**

Nil

### **3: Delivery of Unit and Timetable**

#### **3a Delivery mode**

Fully online (see section 4c).

#### **3b Schedule of topics/lectures/tutorials/practicals/field classes by week**

See Study Guide on the website.

### **4: Unit Resources**

#### **4a Lists of required texts/readings**

There is no required text. Readings for each module of the unit are provided through e-Reserve, accessed through the unit website (see section 4c).

#### **4b Materials and equipment**

Internet access is needed to interact with the unit website, internet resources and university email.

#### **4c Unit website**

The unit website is at <http://learnonline.canberra.edu.au>.

### **5: Assessment**

#### **5a Assessment overview**

Assessment of student is made on the basis of 3 assignments to be submitted and an assessment of participation in the online forums.

<b>Assessment Item</b>	<b>Due Date of Assignments</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
1. Exploration of an information dimension	Friday, week 6, April 3	20%
2. Critique of another student's exploration assignment	Friday, week 10, May 1	20%
3. Professional assignment	Friday, week 15, June 5	40%
4. Participation in forum discussions	Throughout semester (review mid March)	20%

## Determination of Grade

Your grade is determined on the sum of your marks in assessment items.

Overall Mark	Grade
50% or greater	At least Pass (P)
65% or greater	At least Credit (CR)
75% or greater	At least Distinction (DI)
85% or greater	High Distinction (HD)

### 5b Details of each assessment item

The following provides some details of the assessment items. Further details for each assessment item are available on the unit web site.

Assessment Item 1. Exploration of an information dimension.

This assignment is a short paper on one of the information dimensions.

Assessment Item 2. Critique of another student's exploration assignment.

Assessment Item 3. Professional assignment.

Students will take a real-life situation, most likely in your work place, and examine it from a range of dimensions.

Assessment Item 4. Participation in forum discussions.

### 5c Special assessment requirements

The author-date or 'Harvard' system is to be used in all written submissions. See "An Abridged Guide to Referencing with examples in the Harvard Author-Date Referencing style" on the University Library Citation Guide site at: [http://www.canberra.edu.au/library/research-gateway/research\\_help/referencing-guides](http://www.canberra.edu.au/library/research-gateway/research_help/referencing-guides).

In the case of any assignment that places you in jeopardy of a Fail in the whole unit, appropriate moderation procedures will be used.

All assignments are required to be submitted on the due date. If you are unable to complete an assignment by the due date, contact the unit convenor and request an extension setting out the genuine and exceptional reason for the request. Late and resubmitted assignments may not count fully towards the determination of your grade.

If there is any doubt with regard to the requirements of any particular assignment or assessment procedure, the onus for clarifying the issue rests with the student who should contact the lecturer about the matter.

### 5d Supplementary assessment

Not available for this unit.

### 5e Text-matching software

Text matching software may be used in this unit.

## **6: Student Responsibility**

### **6a Workload**

The amount of time you will need to spend on study in this Unit will depend on a number of factors including your prior knowledge, learning skill level and learning style. Nevertheless, in planning your time commitments you should note that for a 3cp Unit the total notional workload over the fifteen week semester is assumed to be 150 hours or an average of 10 hours per week. These hours include time spent in classes. The total workload for Units of different credit point value should vary proportionally. For example, for a 6cp Unit the total notional workload over a fifteen week semester is assumed to be 300 hours or an average of 20 hours per week.

### **6b Special needs**

Students who need assistance in undertaking the unit because of disability or other circumstances should inform their Unit Convener or the Disabilities Office as soon as possible so the necessary arrangements can be made.

### **6c Attendance requirements**

Nil

### **6d Required IT skills**

There are no specific IT skills required for this unit.

### **6e Costs**

There are no additional costs associated with this unit apart from materials you choose to use in the preparation of assessment items.

### **6f Additional information**

Nil

## **7: Student Feedback**

All students enrolled in this Unit will have an opportunity to provide anonymous feedback on the Unit at the end of the Semester via the Unit Satisfaction Survey which will be presented to you on OSIS. Your lecturer or tutor may also invite you to provide feedback on their teaching through an anonymous questionnaire administered through the University's Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC).

## **8: Authority of this Unit Outline**

Any change to the information contained in Section 2 (Academic content), Section 3 (Delivery of Unit and timetable) and Section 5 (Assessment) of this document, will only be made by the Unit Convener if the written agreement of staff and a majority of students has been obtained; and if written advice of the change is then forwarded to each student enrolled in the Unit at their registered term address. Any individual student who believes him/herself to be disadvantaged by a change is encouraged to discuss the matter with the Unit Convener.