



Wollongong College Australia

A College of the University of Wollongong

Australia
Wollongong

ITC Education Ltd trading as
Wollongong College Australia
CRICOS 02723D
ABN 14105312329

Diploma in Information Technology

(CRICOS course codes: 057233A, 057234M)

Subject Outline

WUCT140

Analytical Thinking for Technology

Autumn 2009

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WCA-WUCT140-S0/3

Analytical Thinking for Technology

Subject Description

This subject is an introduction to the techniques of critique as used in the area of information and communication technology (ICT). It covers a range of approaches to critique and how they can be expressed in the form of a case study, report, oral presentation and critical essay. The approaches to critique are applied across the themes of the internet and the web; systems design and development; and computers and education. A consideration of ethics is incorporated in each of the themes. The subject is specifically designed to address the needs of students who have not developed skills and understanding of the concepts and techniques of critique.

Subject structure

Analytical Thinking for Technology is delivered in a face-to-face format of five (5) hours per week. Weekly classes consist of a 3-hour lecture and a 2-hour tutorial.

In addition to scheduled classes, students are expected to spend additional time in individual study and research. A general guideline is to spend at least one hour in private study for every hour of scheduled class time.

Teachers will be available for an additional 1-hour consultation time each week. Students will be notified of the time and location for consultation during week 1 of session.

Some students may require additional support to improve language/literacy skills. Where this is needed, students are advised to utilise the College's self-access facilities in the Multimedia Centre in their own time.

Learning resources

There are no set texts for this subject. A reference list for each topic will be provided in week 1. The references are available in the university's reference section or online.

Subject outcomes

At the completion of this subject students should be able to:

1. Distinguish between various approaches to critique
2. Analyse basic concepts about theory
3. Analyse issues, including ethics, related to ICT
4. Evaluate empirical evidence and apply it to theories relating to ICT
5. evaluate various methods and techniques of critique as they apply to ICT
6. Evaluate technology in its social and business context
7. Present a coherent discussion both orally and in writing
8. Reflect upon the process of learning with the purpose of developing conceptual and creative skills
9. take limited responsibility for achievement of group outcomes
10. Report on findings

Subject outline in weeks

The following guide to lessons and activities may be adjusted to suit the needs of the group.

Week 1 Essay writing

An introduction to essay writing for university

Week 2 Presentation techniques

Practical techniques for making presentations.

Week 3 What is a report?

Reports and their use in information technology.

Week 4 Systems design and development

Reporting on system development.

Week 5 What is a case study?

Case studies and their use as research and learning tools.

Week 6 The internet and the web

Basic concepts of the Internet and web design

Week 7 Writing a case study

Applying case study methods to the web

Week 8 Being sceptical

What does being sceptical mean for information technologists?

Week 9 Computers and education – an orthodox view

An orthodox view of computers in education.

Week 10 Computers and education – a sceptical view

A sceptical view of computers in education.

Week 11 Class test

Editing your essay

Week 12 Review and reflection

Reflecting upon the processes of learning.

Week 13/14 Final Examinations

There is no final exam for this subject.

Assessment and plagiarism policy

All written assessment tasks, with the exception of examinations and in-class tasks, must be word-processed unless students are otherwise advised.

Students must keep copies of all assessment tasks submitted for marking with the exception of class tests and examinations.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating or stealing that happens when a student uses someone else's work and presents it as his/her own without showing where it comes from. To avoid this, students are expected to submit their own original work for assessment and to accurately acknowledge all references and sources used in essays and assignments.

For information regarding assessment, plagiarism, acknowledging sources and examination rules, please refer to the Wollongong College Australia Student Handbook <http://www.wca.uow.edu.au/handbook>

Assessment Schedule

Assessment Task	Due	Weighting	Length/Time
Essay writing 1	Week 3	10%	1-2 pages
Class test 1	Week 4	6%	
Essay writing 2	Week 6	10%	2-3 pages
Class test 2	Week 8	6%	
Group presentation and report	Week 9	30%	30 minutes
Class test 3	Week 11	8%	
Essay writing 3	Week 12	30%	1500 words

Note: A final mark of 50% or higher is required to pass ALL Diploma subjects. A mark between 45% and 49% is NOT a pass.

Marking Guidelines

WCA best practice is that students can normally expect to have assessment tasks handed back within two weeks, and before the next assessment task is due. On occasion there may be exceptions to this time frame due to, for example, the size of the task, the size of the class, teacher illness or teacher leave.

Where there are several teachers marking a major assessment task, tasks will be handed back by all the teachers within the same week.

Assessment criteria and explanation of components

All assessment components are marked according to set marking criteria. Marking criteria are available in week 1.

Essay writing 1 **10%**

This assessment task involves the preparations necessary before writing an essay. Further details will be provided in week 1.

Group presentation and report **30%**

In this assessment, students will investigate a topic and present their results to the class. Further details will be provided in week 1.

Essay writing 2 **10%**

This assessment asks students to demonstrate their understanding of the essay topic. Further details will be provided in week 1.

Class tests 1, 2 & 3 **Total 20%**

The class tests will consist of multiple choice and/or short answer questions based on the lectures, tutorials and readings in the preceding weeks.

Essay writing 3 **30%**

Students are to write a critical essay on their chosen topic based on the work begun in essay writing assignments 1 and 2. Further details will be provided in week 1.