MASTER INFORMATION STUDIES
TRACK BUSINESS INFORMATION STUDIES
Study guide 2015-2016

Perspectives on Information & Management
1. Introduction

1.1 General information
Programme: Master Information Studies
Course: Perspectives on Information & Management
Course Code: 5294POIM6Y
Coordinator: drs. Arjan Vreeken
Period: Semester 2, period 4
Study year: 2015-2016
Credits: 6 EC

1.2 Content of the Course
In the course we explore a fundamental shift in the understanding of information and management in organizations as suggested by Introna and others. As part of this shift we try to understand the manager as being-in-the-world, information as hermeneutic understanding and management as manus. In order to reach this understanding a mix of formal theories and philosophy is provided from among others Heidegger and Gadamer. In addition students are challenged to apply and explore the consequences of the proposed insights for a diverse set of IS topics. Topics may include for example IS-evaluation, the manager’s work, performance measuring and dealing with numbers in organizational life. For this purpose a mix of literature is provided as well as opportunities for exploration and discussion. Detailed contents of the course will be published on Blackboard.

1.3 Learning outcomes
At the end of this course:

1. The student is able to contrast the manager as rational thinker and as being involved in-the-world.
2. The student is able to contrast information as representational knowing and as hermeneutic understanding.
3. The student is able to contrast management as scientific management and as manus management.
4. The student is able to relate different perspectives described above into two coherent perspectives.
5. The student is able to develop and formulate implications of the different perspectives for several IS-related topics a.o. IS-evaluation.
6. The student is able to critically assess the different perspectives on management and information described above.

1.4 Format
In part 1 of the course plenary lectures focus on examination and explanation of the philosophical insights. From this rather abstract starting point students are challenged in part 2 of the course to explore the consequences for dealing with a diverse set of IS topics as well as their own practice. The
lectures in part 2 focus on exploration and joint discussion both in small groups and in plenary settings.

1.5 Compulsory attendance (=aanwezigheidsplicht, indien van toepassing)

Presence in the lectures is mandatory for the following lectures:

a. Plenary lectures during the first part of the course (first 4 weeks)
b. 5 of the 6 Discussions Lectures in the second part of the course (last 3 weeks)
c. The Discussion Lecture where your group is scheduled for the Discussion Assignment.

Preparation for the lectures is mandatory. See Blackboard for details on preparation.

Not complying to these rules means removal from the course.
2. **Assessment**

There are 4 assignments in the course. These assignments are shortly introduced below and described in more detail on Blackboard.

2.1. **Short Exam**

During Part 1 of the course there is a short exam scheduled. The Exam is on the essentials of the main literature (see section 3).

The assignment is graded with a mark ranging from 1-10. It provides 15% of the overall grade of the course.

2.2. **Discussion Assignment**

This assignment consists of leading a 2-3 hours session on a selected topic from the list provided in the Topic-document on Blackboard. The session should include a contents presentation and a discussion.

The assignment is graded with a mark ranging from 1-10. It provides 25% of the overall grade of the course.

2.3. **Reflection Assignment**

This assignment consists of 5 short reflections on the contents of the Discussion Lectures. You are expected to hand in the reflections with 2-4 students in total. These 2-4 students may vary for each reflection.

This assignment is graded with a Pass or a Fail. The assignment is failed if you fail to reflect on more than 1 Discussion Lecture. If the assignment is failed, you can not pass the course.

2.4. **Final Assignment**

This assignment consists of writing a paper on a selected topic from the list provided in the Topic-document on Blackboard. You are expected to write an analysis and a discussion on one or more issues related to the selected topic. It is allowed to write this paper individually or with a group of students.

This assignment is graded with a mark ranging from 1-10. It provides 60% of the overall grade of the course.

2.5. **The calculation of the final grade**

The components that are graded on a scale from 1 to 10 are used to calculate the final grade. In order to pass the course the final grade should be at least a five and a half. In addition each specific component that is graded on a scale from 1 to 10 should be at least a four and a half AND the reflection assignment should be passed. When a student has not fulfilled these requirements, the examiner will register the mark ‘did not fulfill all requirements’ (NAV) whether or not the averaged grade is sufficient.
The components will be weighted as follows:

1. Short Exam: 15%
2. Discussion Assignment: 25%
3. Final Assignment: 60%

2.6. **Table of specification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning outcome</th>
<th>Components (see above)</th>
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*Table 1: Table of specification: the relation between the learning outcomes of the course and the assessment components of the course.*

3. **Literature**

In the first part of the course we use the Book of Lucas D. Introna. *Management, Information and Power*. 1997. ISBN 0333698703. For the second part of the course we use literature that is announced on Blackboard.

4. **Fraud and Plagiarism**

This course uses the general fraud and plagiarism rules of the UvA. Fraud and plagiarism are seen as the intentional action or inaction of a student aimed at hindering the assessment of his/her knowledge, insight and skills.

All written reports are checked for plagiarism. When blocks of text are found to be copied without proper references, the exam committee will be notified. Suspicion of fraud during the exam will be send to the examination committee. The Examination Committee is able to terminate your participation in the master course.

Please get acquainted with the university’s ([http://student.uva.nl/fs/az/item/plagiarism-and-fraud.html](http://student.uva.nl/fs/az/item/plagiarism-and-fraud.html)), and career specific’s Education and Examination Regulations ([http://student.uva.nl/fs/az/item/rules-and-regulations.html](http://student.uva.nl/fs/az/item/rules-and-regulations.html)).