



COMP2800

IT and the Future of Society

Session 2, Special circumstance 2020

Department of Computing

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Notice

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Matthew Mansour

matthew.mansour@mq.edu.au

Contact via matthew.mansour@mq.edu.au

Refer to ilearn for Zoom consult time

Frances Louise

frances.louise@mq.edu.au

Refer to ilearn for Zoom consult time

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp including ((COMP1800 or ISYS100) or 20cp in COMP or ISYS units at 1000 level)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit is subject to a quota. Limited places are available. Please refer to the Faculty for further information. This unit investigates the trends in technology, especially in information technology (IT), and the impact those advances will have for individuals, organisations, the society, and the wider environment. The unit aims at improving the students' proficiency in using current and emerging IT applications. It aims also at prompting a reflection on the consequences of those rapid changes of technology on the society. Students consider the relevance of current and future IT applications and research in a range of diverse fields including artificial intelligence, human computer interaction, games, social software and networks. Issues to be explored in relation to new technologies include ethics, sustainability, intellectual property, censorships, social networks, and addictions. Students gain enhanced computer literacy and competence through practical activities and exploration of applications relevant to each topic.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

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

ULO1: Analyse a range of important future Information Technology and Information Systems issues.

ULO2: Demonstrate an understanding of the impacts of constant connectivity and distractions on quality of life and society.

ULO3: Communicate clearly about information technology applications.

ULO4: Describe the key trends of Information Technology of the future and the implications for society.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Research Paper	42%	No	5/11/2020
Group Work Assessment	28%	No	Weeks 4 / 6 / 8 / 11
Reflections	30%	No	Weeks 5 / 8 / 11

Research Paper

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **5/11/2020**

Weighting: **42%**

You will be provided in week 11 with several candidate questions that you can use for your Research Paper. The paper will be approximately 2400 words. You will need to create the paper in an essay format. With any original work you will need to demonstrate an understanding of how to reference all materials that you have used.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse a range of important future Information Technology and Information Systems issues.
- Describe the key trends of Information Technology of the future and the implications for society.

Group Work Assessment

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Weeks 4 / 6 / 8 / 11**

Weighting: **28%**

Within COMP2800 you will be expected to be able to utilise the information from the previous weeks discussion to do the assessment. This will be conducted within 4 designated weeks (Week 4 / 6 / 8/ 10. They will be a mix between presentations and debates. A Marking Rubric will be provided on ilearn. Each group workshop assessment is worth 7 % each (Total of 28%)

Groups will be give the question or task in the week preceding the assessment due week. (For example; they will be given the questions in week 3 to present in week 4) This will allow you and your group plenty of time to prepare by reflecting on the lecture from the previous week and then delivering a polished presentation within the class.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse a range of important future Information Technology and Information Systems issues.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the impacts of constant connectivity and distractions on quality of life and society.
- Communicate clearly about information technology applications.
- Describe the key trends of Information Technology of the future and the implications for society.

Reflections

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Weeks 5 / 8 / 11**

Weighting: **30%**

There will be 3 reflections within the semester. Each reflection is worth 10% towards your final grade (i.e 30% in total) These reflections will cover important parts of the unit material and also assess your current level of mastery of it, giving you and your tutor an opportunity to address any problem areas before the final research paper. The reflection will be completed within the students own time and before the due date noted on ilearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse a range of important future Information Technology and Information Systems issues.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the impacts of constant connectivity and distractions on quality of life and society.
- Describe the key trends of Information Technology of the future and the implications for society.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Teaching and Learning Strategy

Mode of delivery is a Hybrid mode. COMP2800 is taught via lectures (via Zoom live and recorded for revision purposes) and the tutorial sessions have two possible streams: On campus (in the classroom) or online via Zoom (**NB**. You can only elect to be in one or the other stream, you cannot decide to come on campus one week and then online the next)

Lectures are used to introduce new material and discuss the use of information technology within society. While lectures are largely one-to-many presentations, you are encouraged to ask questions of the lecturer to clarify anything you might not be sure of. Tutorials are small group classes, which give you the opportunity to interact with your peers and with a tutor who has a sound knowledge of the subject.

Each week you should:

- Attend lectures, take notes, ask questions.
- Attend your tutorial, seek feedback from your tutor on your work. See them in consultation times!
- Read appropriate sections of the text, add to your notes, and prepare questions for your lecturer or tutor.
- Prepare answers to the following week's tutorial.

Lecture notes will be made available each week but these notes are intended as an outline of the lecture only and are not a substitute for your own notes.

Classes

Each week you should attend two hours of lectures and a one-hour tutorial class.

(For details of days, times and rooms consult the [timetables webpage](#).)

Note that workshops start in week 1.

What has changed from previous semesters?

We have modified the assessments in alignment with feedback from the previous offering.

We have moved to a Hybrid model due to the COVID19 situation.

Textbook

- N/A

Technology used and required

Zoom

Echo (Zoom lectures uploaded at some point post the live lecture when available)

Digital recordings of lectures are available.

COMP2800 makes use of the following software/technologies:

- Microsoft Windows 10
- Microsoft Office 2010 / 2013 / 2016
- Internet Explorer / Mozilla Firefox / Chrome
- ilearn

Website

The web page for this unit can be found at: <http://ilearn.mq.edu.au>.

Discussion Boards

The discussion board for this unit can be accessed through <http://ilearn.mq.edu.au>.

Staff-Student Liaison Committee

The Department has established a Staff-Student Liaison Committee to provide all students studying a Computing unit the opportunity to discuss related issues or problems with both students and staff. The committee meets during the semester. For each meeting, an agenda is issued and minutes are taken.

If your issue is unable to be addressed through the Staff-Student Liaison Committee, then you should consult the Director of Teaching (Dr. Steve Cassidy) or the Head of Department (Dr. Michael Sheng). You are entitled to have your concerns raised, discussed, and resolved.

Student Support Services

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at <http://www.student.mq.edu.au>.

Assumed knowledge

Basic computer skills.

Unit Schedule

Week	Topic
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1	Introduction to IT and the Future of Society (MM)	
2	Future of the Cloud (MM)	
3	Future of Transportation "Will I be living in Sydney but working in China?" (MM)	
4	Internet of Things (FL)	
5	Quantum Computing "More relevant than ever before" (MM)	
6	IT Ethics and the Future of Society (MM)	
7	We are all addicts – "Addiction to the Web and beyond" (FL)	
8	Cloud Gaming and AI (FL)	
9	Future of Robotics "Will we really be having robots do everything?" (MM)	
10	Human Computer Interface "What is next when we don't use a keyboard anymore?" (FL)	
11	Cyber Security and Privacy " Can you really stay safe in the future? " (MM)	
12	Research Paper discussion. (FL/MM)	
13	Wrap Up (MM)	

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Changes from Previous Offering

Transitioned to a Hybrid mode due to COVID19 situation.

Standards and Grading

Unlike many units, COMP2800 covers a wide range of areas, but at limited depth. Therefore it is not appropriate to identify core knowledge and assess each student's mastery of that at increasing levels of complexity. Instead, the assessment of Learning Outcome #1 is based in large part on the amount of knowledge the student gains across the range of the unit, as assessed by performance in the workshops, reflections and final research paper etc.

The final mark for the unit will be calculated by combining the marks for all assessment tasks according to the percentage weightings shown in the assessment summary. In order to obtain a grade of Pass (P) or higher in this unit if you satisfy the following:

- obtain an overall mark of at least 50% (calculated according to the weightings given above).

Obtaining a higher grade than a Pass (P) in this unit will require a student to obtain (in addition to the above):

- the required total number of marks (Credit - 65, Distinction - 75, High Distinction - 85);
- obtain a mark of at least 70% overall for the Group Workshop Assessments;
- obtain a mark of at least 70% in the final research paper; and
- obtain an overall mark of at least 70% (calculated according to the weightings given above).

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
16/07/ 2020	Hi Steve, The typo that Jia mentioned has been fixed, I needed to resubmit for approval again.