



MONASH University

**GCO3500
Project**

Unit Guide

Semester 2, 2009

The information contained in this unit guide is correct at time of publication. The University has the right to change any of the elements contained in this document at any time.

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GCO3500 Project - Semester 2, 2009

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Introduction

Welcome to GCO3500 Project for semester 2, 2009. This 6 point unit is an elective to the Master of Applied Information Technology degree program in the Faculty of IT. The unit has been designed to provide you with an opportunity to develop a small scale IT system by applying the system analysis, design and programming knowledge you have acquired in units you have already completed in the course.

Unit synopsis

In general, students select a project that involves all aspects of the system development lifecycle; analysis and design, programming, testing and implementation of a solution. Project management aspects of system development are stressed, with the following deliverables required: proposal, definition, feasibility study, project plan, system specification, design report, implementation plan, user documentation, and operational software, to ensure that the project is delivered on time. The student must display a sense of responsibility for the project outcomes and skills for interaction with the client. Requirements include oral presentation(s) to the client and written reports.

Learning outcomes

This subject aims to develop in students:

1. the capacity to apply in a practical setting the theoretical work covered in the course;
2. the ability to develop a significant computing application, from the analysis and design stages, through coding and implementation to evaluation;
3. the ability to define a problem, and gather data, facts, opinions and information needed to analyse and solve it;
4. skills in outlining and evaluating alternative solutions to a system development problem;
5. knowledge and skill to perform a feasibility study that includes estimates of costs, time requirements, a schedule for the development, and the benefits expected from the system;
6. ability to identify hardware and software requirements for a system;
7. skill in documenting a system design using industry standard documentation tools and procedures;
8. knowledge, understanding and skill to implement a system, including testing and debugging;
9. knowledge and skill in evaluating a system, identifying any weakness or possible enhancements.

At the completion of this unit students will have:

1. the abilities and attitudes required to operate effectively as a member of a development team;
2. skills and knowledge to work with clients and communicate effectively with them.

Contact hours

Students are required to spend a minimum of 12 hours per week working on their projects. Regular meetings with the supervisor are also required.

Workload

Students are required to spend a minimum of 12 hours per week working on their projects. Regular meetings with the supervisor are also required.

Unit relationships

Prerequisites

Completion of all core units

Prohibitions

GCO2819, GCO9800, GCO3700, GCO3800, GCO3819, GCO3900, SYS3030, SYS3550, SYS3500

Relationships

GCO3500 is an elective unit in the Master of Applied Information Technology degree. You may not study this unit and FIT3025, GCO2819, GCO9800, GCO3700, GCO3800, GCO3819, GCO3900, SYS3030, SYS3550, SYS3500 in your degree.

Teaching and learning method

When developing the small scale IT system, students are expected to put knowledge and skills acquired from units previously completed in the course into practise. A supervisor will be allocated to each student to assist the student during the system development.

Timetable information

For information on timetabling for on-campus classes please refer to MUTTS, <http://mutts.monash.edu.au/MUTTS/>

Tutorial allocation

On-campus students should register for tutorials/laboratories using the Allocate+ system:
<http://allocate.cc.monash.edu.au/>

Off-Campus Learning or flexible delivery

Once a supervisor is allocated to an Off-campus learning (OCL) student, the student should establish with the supervisor the best methods of communication to facilitate the weekly meetings and various discussions. Some examples of communication methods are email, newsgroup, video conferencing, and chat room.

Unit Schedule

Week	Topic	Key dates
1	Weekly activities are determined by the student's project plan	
2	As per plan	
3	As per plan	Report 1 due and Presentation
4	As per plan	
5	As per plan	Report 2 due
6	As per plan	
7	As per plan	
8	As per plan	
9	As per plan	Report 3 due
10	As per plan	
Mid semester break		
11	As per plan	
12	As per plan	
13	As per plan	Report 4 & End Product due and Presentation

Unit Resources

Prescribed text(s) and readings

There is no prescribed text for this unit.

However, all prescribed texts and recommended readings from other units in your major can be used as references. Monash Bookshop and Library.

Recommended text(s) and readings

All prescribed texts and recommended readings from other units in your major can be used as references.

Required software and/or hardware

There is no software requirement. However, students must discuss with their allocated supervisors on what software the university can or cannot support. If the software the client or student would like to use for system development are not available in the university, the client or student is expected to provide the university with the software licenses in order for the supervisor to assess the system.

Equipment and consumables required or provided

Students studying off-campus are required to have the minimum system configuration specified by the faculty as a condition of accepting admission, and regular Internet access. On-campus students, and those studying at supported study locations may use the facilities available in the computing labs. Information about computer use for students is available from the ITS Student Resource Guide in the Monash University Handbook. You will need to allocate up to 12 hours per week for use of a computer, including time for newsgroups/discussion groups.

Study resources

Study resources we will provide for your study are:

Information on the structure of this unit is available on the unit Website. Outline of the administrative matters for the unit is also available on the Website.

The GCO3500 Website is on the MUSO/Blackboard site, where lecture slides, sample structure of assignments/reports and sample materials will be posted.

Newsgroups/discussion groups that can be linked to from the Unit Homepage.

Assessment

Overview

Practical work, project reports, documents and other project deliverables, two presentations and the project supervisor's report

Faculty assessment policy

To pass a unit which includes an examination as part of the assessment a student must obtain:

- 40% or more in the unit's examination, and
- 40% or more in the unit's total non-examination assessment, and
- an overall unit mark of 50% or more.

If a student does not achieve 40% or more in the unit examination or the unit non-examination total assessment, and the total mark for the unit is greater than 44% then a mark of no greater than 44-N will be recorded for the unit.

1. Attempt all assignment tasks.
2. Score 50% or more overall in the unit.

Assignment tasks

Assignment coversheets

Assignment coversheets are available via "Student Forms" on the Faculty website:
<http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/resources/student/forms/>

You MUST submit a completed coversheet with all assignments, ensuring that the plagiarism declaration section is signed.

Assignment submission and return procedures, and assessment criteria will be specified with each assignment.

• Assignment task 1

Title:

Progress Report 1

Description:

System specifications

Weighting:

8%

Due date:

3/8/2009

• Assignment task 2

Title:

Presentation 1

Description:

System specifications presentation

Weighting:

2%

Due date:

3/8/2009

• **Assignment task 3**

Title:

Progress Report 2

Description:

System analysis

Weighting:

12%

Due date:

21/8/2009

• **Assignment task 4**

Title:

Progress Report 3

Description:

System design

Weighting:

8%

Due date:

18/9/2009

• **Assignment task 5**

Title:

Progress Report 4

Description:

System implementation

Weighting:

17%

Due date:

23/10/2009

• **Assignment task 6**

Title:

End Product

Description:

Final working system to be delivered to client.

Weighting:

50%

Due date:

23/10/2009

• **Assignment task 7**

Title:

Final Presentation

Description:

Final presentation on the system developed.

Weighting:

3%

Due date:

23/10/2009

Due dates and extensions

Please make every effort to submit work by the due dates. It is your responsibility to structure your study program around assignment deadlines, family, work and other commitments. Factors such as normal work pressures, vacations, etc. are not regarded as appropriate reasons for granting extensions. Students are advised to NOT assume that granting of an extension is a matter of course.

Students requesting an extension for any assessment during semester (eg. Assignments, tests or presentations) are required to submit a Special Consideration application form (in-semester exam/assessment task), along with original copies of supporting documentation, directly to their lecturer within two working days before the assessment submission deadline. Lecturers will provide specific outcomes directly to students via email within 2 working days. The lecturer reserves the right to refuse late applications.

A copy of the email or other written communication of an extension must be attached to the assignment submission.

Refer to the Faculty Special consideration webpage or further details and to access application forms:

<http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/resources/student/equity/special-consideration.html>

Late assignment

Assignments received after the due date will be subject to a penalty of 5% for every day after the due date.

Assignments received later than one week after the due date will not normally be accepted.

Return dates

Students can expect assignments to be returned within two weeks of the submission date or after receipt, whichever is later.

Appendix

Please visit the following URL: <http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/units/appendix.html> for further information about:

- Continuous improvement
- Unit evaluations
- Communication, participation and feedback
- Library access
- Monash University Studies Online (MUSO)
- Plagiarism, cheating and collusion
- Register of counselling about plagiarism
- Non-discriminatory language
- Students with disability
- End of semester special consideration / deferred exams