SYNOPSIS

In the rapidly developing information economy, information goods are major causes of change in world markets. At the electronic frontier, network economics, together with technological change, is altering the way in which markets develop and work. Businesses, governments and households need to understand and apply principles of information and network economics if they are to develop successful strategies for operating in the global, electronic marketplace. This course introduces principles of information and network economics and explores their use in the development of business strategies and government policy in the information economy.

OBJECTIVES

On completion of this course a student should be able to:

1. use economic principles to explain the development of the information economy;
2. use principles of information and network economics to identify and explain a range of strategies open to businesses and governments operating in the information economy;
3. identify and articulate problems of the network economy;
4. critically appraise the role of government in the information economy; and
5. critically appraise policy for the development of the information economy.

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to the information economy</td>
<td>8.00</td>
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2. Concepts, models and analysis: using economics in the information economy 16.00
3. Business strategies and conduct in the information economy 23.00
4. The financial sector in the information economy 15.00
5. Telecommunications infrastructure and pricing in the information economy 15.00
6. Government and policy in the information economy 23.00

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED:

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

(revised and updated edition)

VanHoose, D 2003, e-commerce economics, Thomson Learning, Mason, Ohio, United States of America.

REFERENCE MATERIALS:

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

(also available electronically through USQ Catalogue)

Lieboiwitz, S 2002, Rethinking the network economy: the true forces that drive the digital marketplace, Amacom, New York.

(also available electronically through USQ Catalogue)

(also available electronically through USQ Catalogue)

(also available electronically through USQ Catalogue)

**STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
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<td>Directed Study</td>
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**ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>ASSIGNMENT 1</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>16 Aug 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASSIGNMENT 2</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>04 Oct 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 HOUR EXAMINATION</td>
<td>120.00</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td>END S2 (see note 1)</td>
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**NOTES:**

1. The examination is scheduled to be held in the end-of-semester examination period. Students will be advised of the official examination date after the timetable has been finalised.

**IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

1. **Attendance requirements:**
   - If you are an international student in Australia you are advised to attend all classes at your campus. Failure to attend may infringe the conditions of your student visa. For all other students, there are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the students’ responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.

2. **Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:**
   - To complete each of the assessment items satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for each assessment item.

3. **Penalties for late submission of required work:**
   - If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of 20% of the total marks gained by the student for the assignment may apply for each working day late.

4. **Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:**
   - To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must achieve at least 50% of the available weighted marks for the summative assessment items.

5. **Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:**
   - The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.

6. **Examination information:**
This is a restricted examination. The only materials that candidates may use in the examination for this course are (i) writing materials: non-electronic and free from material which could give the student an unfair advantage in the examination; (ii) calculator which cannot hold textual information (students must indicate on their examination paper the make and model of any calculator(s) they use during the examination); (iii) English translation dictionaries (but not technical dictionaries).

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
Any Deferred or Supplementary examinations for this course will be held during the next examination period.

8 University Regulations:
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm. Students should also read the Faculty of Business Guide to Policies and Procedures of the Faculty which can be found at the URL http://www.usq.edu.au/handbook/current/buspolproc.html.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

1 Assignments: (i) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner. (ii) Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within five days if required by the Examiner. (iii) The Examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. Students may apply for an extension through the DEC before the due date or by including an application with the submitted assignment after the due date. Such applications should be in writing and include supporting documentary evidence. The authority for granting extensions rests with the relevant Examiner. (iv) The Examiner will normally only accept assessments that have been written, typed or printed on paper-based media. (v) The Examiner will not accept submission of assignments by facsimile. (vi) Students who do not have regular access to postal services or who are otherwise disadvantaged by these regulations may be given special consideration. They should contact the Examiner to negotiate such special arrangements. (vii) In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a Show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the Examiner's convenience.

2 Course Weightings: Course weightings of topics should not be interpreted as applying to the number of marks allocated to questions testing those topics in an examination paper. The examination may test material already tested in assignments.

3 Deferred Work: Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded: IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination); IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).