FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER

2nd SEMESTER 2019

ASSIGNMENT 2

ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING
(ERP720S)
Course Name: ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING
Course Code: ERP720S
Department: LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORT
Course Duration: ONE SEMESTER
NQF Level and Credit: LEVEL 7, 12 CREDITS

Your marker-tutor for ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING SYSTEMS
Tel.: 061 2072033
E-mail: echikohora@nust.na

Your moderator for ADD COURSE NAME HERE
Tel.: telephone number here
E-mail: email address here

Your content-editor for ADD COURSE NAME HERE
Tel.: telephone number here
E-mail: email address here

Please sms your tutor to arrange a telephonic/WebEx tutorial
COLL ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

COLL ANNOUNCEMENTS:  
http://www.nust.na/?q=centres/coll/coll-announcement

COLL STUDENT SUPPORT:  
http://www.nust.na/?q=centres/coll/student-support

E-LEARNING:  
http://elearning.nust.na/elearn/

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION:  
collassignments@nust.na

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES:  
Information Manual for Distance Education Students (DE Manual)
http://www.nust.na/?q=centres/coll/about-coll

NUST COLL VACATION SCHOOL:  
20 – 24 AUGUST 2018

TIMETABLE:  
http://www.nust.na/?q=centres/coll/about-coll

FACE TO FACE CLASSES:  
http://www.nust.na/?q=centres/coll/about-coll

COLL FACEBOOK:  
https://www.facebook.com/groups/554488671248201/

MOODLE PLATFORM:  
http://www.nust.na/?q=centres/coll/about-coll

ENROLLMENT KEY:  
ERP720S

NUST’s Policies and Regulations:  
http://www.nust.na/?q=download/annual-reports-documents

Examination dates:  
To be announced on the NUST webpage

MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE (MOOC):  

Username:  
nust

Password:  
123

COLL STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

WebEx:  
https://vc.uc.nust.na/orion/login

NUST Writing Unit:  
061 – 2072383  
writingunit@nust.na

NUST Mathematics Tutoring Centre:  
061 – 2072523/2072913  
http://mathstutoring.nust.na

TURNITIN:  
www.turnitin.com

TurnItIn - Student Guide.pdf
Course Name: ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING SYSTEMS
Course Code: ERP720S
Department: LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORT
Course Duration: ONE SEMESTER
NQF Level and Credit: LEVEL 7, 12 CREDITS

Prescribed textbook
Study Guides/Notes prepared by the department.
Enterprise Systems Education for Africa (ESEFA) Version 3.7 (2017)

Recommended material

Moodle Enrolment Key: ERP720S
STATEMENT ABOUT ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

All staff and students of Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), upon signing their employment contracts and registration forms, commit themselves to abide by the policies and rules of the institution. The core activity of NUST is learning and in this respect academic honesty and integrity is very important to ensure that learning is valid, reliable and credible.

NUST therefore does not condone any form of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism and cheating on tests and assessments, amongst other such practices. NUST requires students to always do their own assignments and to produce their own academic work, unless given a group assignment.

Academic Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- Using the ideas, words, works or inventions of someone else as if it is your own work.
- Using the direct words of someone else without quotation marks, even if it is referenced.
- Copying from writings (books, articles, webpages, other students’ assignments, etc.), published or unpublished, without referencing.
- Syndication of a piece of work, all or part of an assignment, by a group of students, unless the assignment was a legitimate group assignment.
- The borrowing and use of another person’s assignment, with or without their knowledge or permission.
- Infringing copyright, including documents copied or cut and pasted from the internet.
- Asking someone else to prepare an assignment for you or to write or sit an assessment for you, whether this is against payment or not.
- Re-submitting work done already for another course or programme as new work, so-called self-plagiarism.
- Bringing notes into an examination or test venue, regardless of whether the notes were used to copy or not.
- Receiving any outside assistance in any form or shape during an examination or test.

All forms of academic dishonesty are viewed as misconduct under NUST Student Rules and Regulations. Students who make themselves guilty of academic dishonesty will be brought before a Disciplinary Committee and may be suspended from studying for a certain time or may be expelled. All students who are found guilty of academic dishonesty shall have an appropriate endorsement on their academic record, which will never be erased.

Insert acknowledgement sentence...

Signature of the student: ........................................... Date: .........................................................
INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Enterprise Resource Planning Systems (ERP720S). A course designed to equip you with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of computer infrastructure for data, information planning and management in business practices today. Please ensure that you are enrolled for the course in the University’s eLearning system to access the materials and all other communiqué related to the course. Enjoy your learning experience.

INSTRUCTIONS/REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSIGNMENTS

Read the questions in both assignments carefully before answering. Answer the questions in the provided answer book. When answering, be guided by the marks allocated to each question, don’t give too much or less of the answer. WRITE NEATLY! Typing the assignment using a word processor is highly recommended.

Assignment one (1) is composed of short answer questions that are sometimes research based. Make sure that you read through Unit 1, 2 and 3 lecture notes before attempting the assignment. Assignment two (2) comprise long answers, essay type that are research based. You should have read and understood all units in your study guide/Lecture Notes. Do not copy and paste from your study guide! You should be able to give examples where the question says give examples. Use APA referencing style to acknowledge sources of information used. You may visit the library for more information referencing.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- You will be doing 2, each weighing 50% towards your CA mark. Due dates are on the COLL website. You will not write any test towards your CA mark.

- You will write a final examination at the end of the semester, 2 hour paper.

Your final mark: (50%) CA and (50%) Examination

PLEASE ENSURE THAT COLL HAS YOUR CORRECT CELLPHONE NUMBER, IN ORDER TO AVOID DELAYS IN RECEIVING CRITICAL INFORMATION THAT IS COMMUNICATED VIA SMS. PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU LOG ONTO MOODLE REGULARLY!!
Examination Admission
Apart from the regulations hereunder, you should also study your COLL Yearbook 2018, which contains important information and regulations about admission to the examination.

- You need at least a 50% semester mark to write the examination
- The final mark is made up of a (50% of the semester mark and 50% of the examination mark)
- A final mark of at least (50%) (calculated from the semester mark and examination) has to be obtained to pass the course

ASSIGNMENT 2
Due date for Assignment 02: .................................................................

My Marker-tutor for this course is:

Dr Edmore Chikohora

Tel. no.: 061 2072033 .................................................................

Email address: echikohora@nust.na

**My Student Support Officer for this course is: (PLEASE COMPLETE THIS PART!)**

Tel. no.: .................................................................

Email address: .................................................................

Address for emailed assignments: collassignments@nust.na

Students may send assignments via e-mail. Students should download the Electronic Assignment Book available in MSWord format from http://www.nust.na/?q=centres/coll/about-coll to complete assignments. Ensure that all information as requested on the assignment cover is completed and correct. Incorrect or incomplete information will prevent it from being accepted for marking.

After completion of the assignment, email the Electronic Assignment Book as an attachment to: collassignments@nust.na

Further note that students are allowed to submit late assignments, based on valid documentary evidence as per rule DE12 (b) of the COLL Yearbook 2018, provided late assignments are submitted within 7 days (including public holidays and weekends) after the due date of the assignment.
Assignment 2: Feedback

General Comments:

Just like in Assignment 1, most students did very well serve for a few who had potential to score higher marks by were affected by minor issues like not numbering their response well among other things. However, the pass rate was 100% which quite good, keep it up. Find below some of the minor issues that most students missed and they are similar to assignment 1;

i. Not reading the questions properly, most students especially on question 1 were discussing the 2 option instead selecting 1 and justifying it. Benefit of doubt was applied to most students who demonstrated some understanding of the 2 options.

ii. Understating responses, in this case I urge students to carefully check the marks allocated and respond likewise. The same should apply in the final examination.

iii. Presentation of work, some students’, work was incorrectly numbered with lead to confusion as to what question is being answered. No credit was given in this case and will not be given again in the final examination.

Find detailed feedback on the assignment document and expected solutions as stated below. Otherwise, all was well and wish you the best in your final examination.

Regards

Dr Edmore Chikohora

Assignment 2:

Question 1:

Read the following scenario and answer the questions that follow;

A large organisation specializing in software development is considering introducing a tracking system to manage its internal user’s request. The company conducted a market analysis and no suitable solutions (systems) could be found. The company employed a reasonable number of highly skilled software developers and programmers, their current customers’ demands are extremely high hence they will not have time for this project. As a consultant you are tasked to advise the company regarding the “Make or Buy decision”.

i. What will you advice the company regarding the “Make or Buy” decision?  [2 marks]

ii. Motivate your answer (i) above by discussing the advantages and risks to be considered for the
before considering the approach you recommend [8 marks]

Solution:

Accept any solution that is consistent and justify any of the following as advantages or risks

- **Cost.** Which alternative presents the lowest total out-of-pocket cost? Businesses tend to include fixed costs when adding up their internal costs, which is incorrect. Only direct costs should be included in the compilation of the internal cost to manufacture a product in-house. This amount should be compared to the quoted price of a supplier.

- **Capacity.** Will the company have sufficient capacity to produce the product in-house? Alternatively, is the supplier reliable enough to be able to produce the goods in sufficient quantities and in a timely manner?

- **Expertise.** Does the company have sufficient expertise to make the goods in-house? In some cases, a business has experienced such a high rate of product failure that it has no choice but to outsource the work to a supplier.

- **Invested funds.** Does the company have enough cash to purchase the equipment needed for in-house production? If the equipment is already on site, could outsourcing the work allow the equipment to be sold, so that the cash can be used elsewhere? This is a major concern for startup companies, which have little excess cash available to invest in facilities.

- **Bottleneck.** Will shifting production to a supplier ease the burden on the company’s bottleneck operation? If so, this can be an excellent reason to buy the goods.

- **Drop shipping option.** A supplier may offer to store the goods at its facility and then ship them directly to the company’s customers as they place orders. This approach shifts the burden of investing in inventory to the supplier, which can represent a substantial reduction in working capital.

- **Strategic importance.** How important is the product to the corporate strategy? If it is very important, then it could make more sense to manufacture the product, in order to maintain complete control over it. This option is most likely to be taken if the company has proprietary production technology that it does not want to share with a supplier. Conversely, something having little importance can more easily be shifted to a supplier.

**Question 2:**

i. Identify any THREE challenges posed by the existence of various types of information systems in the enterprise? [3 marks]

ii. How can each of the challenges mentioned in (a) be addressed? [9 marks]

iii. Discuss three major issues in the practice of Enterprise Architecture. [12 marks]

**Solution:**
i. **Challenges:**

1. **Integration and the whole firm view:** Given the different interests and perspectives within a firm, it is difficult to achieve consensus about the need for the whole firm viewpoint.

2. **Management and employee training:** Training a large number of employees on many systems in a large organization involves commensurately large investments.

3. **Accounting for the cost of systems and managing demands for systems:** Given the large number of different types of systems in a firm, and the large number of people involved with using them. It is a complex task to understand which systems are truly necessary and productive with high returns on investment.

ii. **Challenges be addressed:**

1. **Inventory the firm’s information systems:** Develop a list of firm-wide information requirements to give a 360-degree view of the most important information needs of the firm.

2. **Employee and Management education:** Ensure that you understand how much training is required.

3. **Account for the costs and benefits:** Develop an accounting system for information services firm-wide.

iii. **Enterprise Architecture continues to grow and expand with the growth and widespread integration of enterprise systems.** With this progress there are consistently new problems which arise regarding Enterprise Architecture and its applications. Three of the major current issues which are faced by majority of Enterprise Architects are that Architects have no control over organisational changes, Enterprise Architecture is enormously time consuming, and the wide scope of activities make developing architectures extremely difficult.

The first major problem faced by Enterprise Architects is that they have little to no control over what happens after they design an Enterprise Architecture. Architects submit their plans to senior executives who have all of the power over the implementation and impact the design will have on the firm. An architect cannot directly influence a change in an organisation without the support of senior management (Bricknall, Darrell, Nilsson, & Pessi, 2006). Enterprise Architecture is simply a process. It provides information for steering and control of an organisation after a long process of study and analysis. Yet, senior managers who have no direct involvement in this process make all the decisions in this respect. Enterprise Architecture today is a means to an end however, its acceptance and thus its impact are oftentimes sealed far behind organisational politics.

**Question 3:**

Think of an organisation of your choice (real or imaginary) and do the following;

(a) Write a brief background of the organization stating at least 5 of its major business processes and how it handles its transactions on a daily basis. **[5 marks]**

(b) For each business process stated in (a) above, explain how the use of ERPs can improve the business process **[10 marks]**

**Solution:**
(a) Accept any narration that shows businesses such as hiring an employee, paying a vendor, procurement of goods, manufacturing of goods, etc. A minimum of 5 business processes is acceptable.

(b) Accept any solution that links to the previously discussed solution, such as; The ERP can help an organisation to procure goods by registering vendors in the systems, vendor payment and tracking of goods using ERP system. A minimum of 5 business processes should be discussed.

Total 50 marks