Week 1 Tutorial: Group formation

Aim
The aim of this tutorial is to initiate your learning groups, and to introduce you to the broad range of information technology.

Formation of learning groups
An important aspect of studying at university is learning to work in a group, as well as learning by working in a group. The learning group is not intended to be a way of distributing parts of a problem to individuals; it is intended to be a forum for discussion where group members can assist each other in the process of learning.

It is important that both before and after tutorials you spend time individually doing the exercises and ensuring that you fully understand the material. Doing this will also enable you to more effectively contribute to your group (for which you will receive marks towards your final grade).

The role of your tutor is to facilitate discussion within your learning group and provide general recommendations for ways you might solve the problems. This will mean that your learning group, not the tutor, will determine what concepts to devote more or less attention to.

It is important to regularly attend tutorials in order to be able to participate in learning group discussions. It is also important to get to know the members of your learning group so that you feel comfortable both making suggestions about how problems might be solved and asking others for their suggestions.

Participation in the learning group will contribute to your assessment. Further details can be found after the questions for tutorial 12. You will also be asked to make preliminary assessments of each other during the semester.

The first exercises for this tutorial is to get to know the members of your learning group.

Interview
Form pairs (with one group of three if you have an odd number of group members) and each member interview the other for 5 minutes. Establish the following information:

- your partner’s name
- one of the advantages of attempting to solve problems as a group
- one suggestion as to an advantage of learning about information technology
- one other question determined by the entire group

Present the other member of your pair together with your summary of their experience of working as part of a team to the rest of the group for approximately 5 minutes.
Name Game

The object of this exercise is to ensure that you know the names of the members of your team. Your tutor will give you a ball, or if not, scrunch up a piece of scrap paper. For about 10 minutes, throw the ball to a member of your group addressing them by name. Every group member should have thrown the ball to every other other member of the group at least once.

What is IT?

1. What exactly is information technology? What kinds of topics would you expect to cover in this course? What topics would you consider essential for this course? (i.e. what topics must everyone who passes this course know?)

2. “I am interested in politics, so information technology is completely irrelevant to me”. Describe at least three counterexamples to this statement. (Hint: think about the topics covered in the first couple of lectures ...).

3. How would skills in information technology help you with a career in the movie industry?

4. Name and describe at least four applications of robots.

5. “The Internet might have killed the CD industry, but that is the only influence of IT on music in general”. Do you agree or disagree? Why? Back up your answer with some evidence.

6. Who were the winners of the Telstra Innovation Challenge in 2011? And who are Real Thing Entertainment? (You probably won’t be able to answer this in the tutorial unless one of your group has a working Internet connection).

Outcome

At the end of the tutorial, please hand to your tutor a list of names and student numbers for the people in your group (as well as group name, if you wish). Fill in the tutorial summary sheet as best you can, including the group’s assessment of how well each person has worked in the group.

Reflection

What are the boundaries of IT? Under what circumstances would you say that a given issue is not about IT? How would you write down one sentence that describes your understanding of what IT is?
Tutorial 1 Summary Sheet

Summary of outcomes:

Questions solved:

Questions attempted but unfinished:

Questions not attempted:

Points to raise with tutor or lecturer:

Peer and self assessment: (see the final tutorial for mark guidelines)

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Other Comments:
Tutorial Group List

Group Name:

Group Members:

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