



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2005/2006

## GRA 6023 Research Methodology

### Program

Master of Science (common course)

### Responsible for the course

Amir Sasson

### Department

Strategy and Logistics

### Term

According to study plan

### ECTS Credits

6

*"If science is the constellation of facts, theories, and methods collected in current texts, then scientists are the men who, successfully or not, have striven to contribute one or another element to that particular constellation. Scientific development becomes the piecemeal process by which these items have been added, singly or in combination, to the ever growing stockpile that constitute scientific technique and knowledge." (Kuhn, 1996:1).*

Students will be given a general introduction to the most common research methods used in the study of organizations and economic issues covering both quantitative and qualitative methods. The course also introduces the students to the philosophy of science and theories of knowledge and knowledge development. The understanding of concepts such as science, knowledge, knowledge development, and the inherent tensions between explanation and description, objectivity and subjectivity, absolutism and relativism, etc. is fundamental for embarking on our own journey to contribute to scientific knowledge. Such understanding leads to the ability to critically evaluate research conducted by others as well as our own research and hence write a better thesis. Finally, the students will be given specific and in depth introduction of research methods within their selected specialization fields.

### Objective

First, to provide you with some necessary tools utilized in business schools. This overview should help you understand the main ways by which researchers attempt to provide good answers to important research questions.

Second, to equip you with enough understanding and tools to do your own research by going in depth into the different steps of the research process used within your specialization.

Third, to familiarize you with some key insights into the philosophy of science. This basic knowledge will help you to better understand what science is and is not.

### Prerequisites

A Bachelor's degree in Business/Marketing or equivalent.

### Compulsory literature

#### Books:

Chalmers, A.F. 1999. What is this thing called science?. 3rd ed. Buckingham: Open University Press.

Frankfort-Nachmias, Chava. and David Nachmias. 2000. Research methods in the social sciences. 6th ed. Worth Publishers: New York.

### Recommended literature

#### Books:

Kuhn T. S.. 1996. The Structure of Scientific Revolutions. 3rd ed. Chicago : University of Chicago Press

Neuman, W. L. 1997. Social research methods: qualitative and quantitative approaches. 3rd ed. Boston : Allyn and Bacon

### Course outline

Lectures and class discussions.

### Computer-based tools

Blackboard

**Course structure**

30 hours is general and ends with an individual paper.

Research Methodology is a very important course in the MSc Program as the course is important in the thesiswork. Please make sure you read the information about the thesiswork. Later in the program students will have thesis seminars and much of the topics covered in the thesis seminars is based on the work in Research Methodology.

**Evaluation**

First part (30 hours) Individual paper (100%).

**Evaluation code(s)**

GRA60237 (100%) for the individual paper

**Aids at the examination**

Not applicable

**Makeup exam**

Re-takes are only possible at the next time a course will be held. When course evaluation consists of class participation or process elements, the whole course must be re-evaluated when a student wants to retake an exam. Retake examinations entail an extra examination fee.