



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2006/2007

GRA 6023 Research Methodology

Program

Common Course, Master of Science in Business and Economics, Master of Science in Financial Economics, Master of Science in International Marketing and Management, Master of Science in International Marketing and Management (+1), Master of Science in Leadership and Organizational Psychology, Master of Science in Management, Master of Science in Political Economy

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. The students will be given specific and in depth introduction of research methods within their selected specialization fields. Finally, the course will prepare the students for their search for theory and data by introducing and critically evaluating a variety of information resources.

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 and introducing information resources 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 qualifying for admission to the MSc programme.

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. 1996. Research methods in the social sciences. 5th ed. Worth Publishers: New York

Recommended literature

Books:

Kuhn, Thomas S. 1996. The structure of scientific revolutions. 3rd ed. Chicago : University of Chicago Press

Neuman, W. Lawrence. 2006. Social research methods: qualitative and quantitative approaches. 6th ed. Boston : Pearson

Course outline

Lectures and class discussions

Computer-based tools

Blackboard & online library resources

Course structure

30 hours to the whole class in the first semester and minimum 6 hours for each specialization in the second semester.

Research Methodology is a very important course in the MSc Program as the course is central to the thesis work. Please make sure you read the information about the thesis work.

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

Individual paper (60%)

Individual and group assignments (40%)

Both parts of the evaluation need to be passed in order to get a grade in the course

For fall 2006: The multiple choice part of the in class evaluation will not count as a part of the final grade. The final grade is based on the term paper in the end with a 40% part and another 60% part. The assignments given by the library need to be passed.

Evaluation code(s)

GRA60238 (Æ) for the individual and group assignments (40%)

GRA60239 for the individual paper (60%)

Aids at the examination

Bilingual dictionary

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.

Honor Code

Academic honesty and trust are important to all of us as individuals, and they are encouraged and promoted by the honor system. This is a most significant university tradition. The honor system is the responsibility of students. As faculty, we share the commitment to the ideals of the honor system.

At no time should notes or papers or personal consultations based on previous semesters of this course be used. As part of the honor code papers handed in as part of the course is, at the discretion of the professor, scanned for plagiarism. We are using Safe Assignment in Black Board for this purpose. Any violation of the honor code will be dealt with in accordance with BI's procedures on cheating. These issues are a serious matter to everyone associated with the program. They are at the heart of the Honor Code and academy integrity. If you have any questions about your responsibilities under the honor code, please ask.