



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2007/2008

GRA 6023 Research Methodology

Program

Common Course, Master in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, 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 Leadership and Organizational Psychology, Master of Science in Marketing, Master of Science in Political Economy

Responsible for the course

Ulf Henning Olsson

Department

Economics

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

Language of instruction

English

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

Second, to equip students with enough understanding and tools to do their 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 students with some key insights into the philosophy of science. This basic knowledge will help students to better understand what science is and is not.

Prerequisites

A Bachelor's degree qualifying for admission to the Master 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. 2000. Research methods in the social sciences. 6th 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 group discussions

Computer-based tools

Blackboard & online library resources

Course structure

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.

The course is a combination of lectures, exercises in groups and pc-lab sessions. Assignments will be given during the course.

Specific Information regarding student evaluation will be provided in class. Please note that while attendance is not compulsory in all courses, it is the student's responsibility to obtain any information provided in class that is not included on the course homepage/Blackboard or text book.

Evaluation

Assignments during the course with written feedback, no grade

A library assignment pass/fail

A final 3 hour individual written exam

Specific Information regarding student evaluation will be provided in class. Please note that while attendance is not compulsory in all courses, it is the student's responsibility to obtain any information provided in class that is not included on the course homepage/Blackboard or text book.

Evaluation code(s)

GRA 6023A for the library assignment (pass/fail)

GRA6023B for the final written exam

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 represent values that are encouraged and promoted by the honor code system. This is a most significant university tradition. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the ideals of the honor code system, to which the faculty are also deeply committed.

Any violation of the honor code will be dealt with in accordance with BI's procedures for cheating. These issues are a serious matter to everyone associated with the programs at BI and 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.