



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2009/2010

GRA 6023 Research Methodology

Programme

Core Course, Master of Science 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 Strategic Marketing Management, Master of Science in Political Economy

Responsible for the course

Knut Hagtvet

Department

Department of Economics

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

Language of instruction

English

Introduction

"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 research methodology covering issues in both quantitative and qualitative methodology. The course also introduces the students to the philosophy of science and theories of knowledge and knowledge development. Such understanding leads to the ability to critically evaluate research conducted by others as well as our own research and to write a better thesis. Finally, the course will prepare the students for their search for theory and data by introducing and critically evaluating a variety of information resources.

Learning outcome

First, the students will be familiarized with some key insights into the philosophy of science. This will include issues such as what science is; where does knowledge come from?, empiricism; and rationalism; objectivity, subjectivity, relativism, absolutism, falsification and paradigms; explanation and description, among others.

Second, provide students with tools for evaluating the validity of inferences drawn from empirical research applying both quantitative and qualitative methodology.

Third, 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. This also introduces knowledge and skill in applying designs for measuring variables as well as investigating relationships between variables.

Finally, 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.

Prerequisites

A Bachelor's degree qualifying for admission to the Master programme.

Students are expected to have a basic understanding of statistics at the level of MET 8006 Statistics/EXC2403 Statistics and MET2360 Metode og datanalyse/EXC2400 Business Research Methods or comparable courses.

Compulsory reading

Books:

Pedhazur, Elazar J., Liora Pedhazur Schmelkin. 1991. Measurement, design, and analysis :

an integrated approach. Hillsdale, N.J. : Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. Chapters 2,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13 and 14
Saunders, Mark, Philip Lewis and Adrian Thornhill. 2009. Research methods for business students. 5th ed. Essex : Pearsom Education. Chapter 3: Critically reviewing the literature. Pp. 58-101. Will be included in the collection of articles
Silverman, D.. 2005. Doing Qualitative Research. 2nd or 3rd ed.. London: Sage. 2nd edition: Chapter 2, 7, 11-12, 14-15 OR 3rd edition: Chapter 2, 7, 13, 15-16

Articles:

Kleven, T.A.. Validity and validation in qualitative and quantitative research. Nordic Educational Research. Will be included in the collection of articles

Collection of articles:

A compendium of articles

Other:

During the course there may be hand-outs and other material on additional topics relevant for the course and the examination.

Recommended reading

Course outline

The learning outcomes will be realized by four course components consisting of:

1. Philosophy of science,
2. Validity theory applied to qualitative and quantitative research
3. Quantitative research designs
4. Library in the context of research.

Computer-based tools

Blackboard & online library resources

Learning process and workload

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.

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

Examination

A library assignment pass/fail

A final 3 hour individual written exam

Specific information regarding student evaluation beyond the information given in the course description will be provided in class. This information may be relevant for requirements for term papers or other hand-ins, and/or where class participation can be one of several elements of the overall evaluation.

Exam code(s)

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

GRA6023B for the final written exam

Examination support materials

A bilingual dictionary.

Exam aids at written examinations are explained under exam information in our web-based Student handbook. Please note use of calculator and dictionary.

<http://www.bi.edu/studenthandbook/examaids>

Re-sit examination

Re-takes are only possible at the next time a course will be held. When the course evaluation has a separate exam code for each part of the evaluation it is possible to retake parts of the evaluation. Otherwise, the whole course must be re-evaluated when a student wants to retake

an exam. Retake examinations entail an extra examination fee.

Additional information

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 academic integrity. If you have any questions about your responsibilities under the honor code, please ask.