



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2011/2012

## **GRA 6278 Research Methods for MSc in Business and Economics, major Business Law, Tax and Accounting**

### **Programme**

Master of Science in Business and Economics (Business Law - Tax and Accounting)

### **Responsible for the course**

Jørgen Juel Andersen

### **Department**

Department of Accounting - Auditing and Law

### **Term**

According to study plan

### **ECTS Credits**

6

### **Language of instruction**

English

### **Introduction**

Research methods course for the students in the MSc in Business and Economics who are majoring in Business Law, Tax and Accounting

### **Learning outcome**

The students shall gain an understanding of research methods that are relevant for the main subject areas of the master programme in professional accountancy. The course will focus on training students to formulate a well-defined problem for discussion and to find a research design that is suitable for throwing light on the problem. The students shall also learn how to find relevant information in the literature and in databases. The course will also discuss issues relating to research ethics. During the course the students shall decide on a topic for their master thesis and must prepare and submit a hand-in project for their thesis.

By means of joint literature and citation searches the students shall acquire knowledge about various search methods for obtaining information.

### **Prerequisites**

A bachelor degree qualifying for admission to the master programme. .

### **Compulsory reading**

#### **Books:**

Boe, Erik. 2010. Grunnleggende juridisk metode : en introduksjon til rett og rettstenkning. 2. utg. Universitetsforlaget

Saunders, Mark.. 2009. Research methods for business students. 5th ed.. Pearson Education; Essex.. Chapter 3: Critically reviewing the literature, pp. 58-101. Available electronically.

#### **Other:**

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

### **Recommended reading**

#### **Books:**

Ghuri, Pervez N. and Kjell Grønhaug. 2009. Research methods in business studies. 4th ed. Financial Times Prentice Hall

Stock, James H. and Mark M. Watson. 2010. Introduction to Econometrics. 3rd edition. Pearson Education; Essex

Stock, James H. and Mark M. Watson. 2012. Introduction to Econometrics. 3rd edition. Pearson Education; Essex

### **Course outline**

Philosophy of science

The research process

Formulating problems to be addressed  
Research designs  
Problems relating to research ethics  
Data collection  
Legal methods  
Qualitative and quantitative data analysis  
Advice on writing the master thesis

### **Computer-based tools**

The students will be given the opportunity to learn about statistics tools.

### **Learning process and workload**

A 6 ECTS credits course is equivalent to a workload of 160-180 hours.

The course consists of lectures. The lectures are organized in the form of ordinary lectures, seminars with student presentations, and practical exercises.

Even though attendance is not compulsory in all courses it is the student's responsibility to obtain information given in class that has not been published on its learning, homepages or in textbooks.

### **Examination**

In order to pass the course the student must have submitted a hand-in project for the master thesis. The hand-in project must as a minimum include a well-defined and operational research question, a tentative outline of the master thesis, a discussion of relevant methods that can be used to analyze the research question, and a review of relevant literature/references.

The course also includes a 3-hour written exam (counts for 90 % of the final letter grade) and completed and approved work assignment organized by the library (counts for 10 % of the final letter grade).

### **Examination code(s)**

GRA 62781 Hand-in project for the master thesis (pass/ fail).  
GRA 62782 for the final letter grade in the course

### **Examination support materials**

BI-approved calculator. 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**

It is only possible to retake an examination the next time that the course is taught.

### **Additional information**

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.