APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2012/2013

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
Norwegian and english

Introduction

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

Other:
-I løpet av kurset kan det bli delt ut materiale på flere emner som er relevante for kurset og eksamen
Saunders, Mark. 2012. Research methods for business students. 6th ed. Pearson. chapter 3, p.70-124. will be available electronically

Recommended reading
Books:
Ghauri, Pervez N., Kjell Grønhaug. 2010. Research methods in business studies. 4th ed. Financial Times Prentice Hall
Stock, James H. and Mark M. Watson. 2012. Introduction to Econometrics. 3rd ed. Pearson
Stock, James H. and Mark M. Watson. 2012. Introduction to econometrics. 3rd ed. Pearson

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 it's 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).

Further detailed information on the evaluation will be given in class. This may be information on requirements to term papers or other hand-in assignments, and/or class participation when this is included in the evaluation.

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 when the course is next taught.
The assessment in some courses is based on more than one exam code.
Where this is the case, you may retake only the assessed components of one of these exam codes.
Where this is not the case, all of the assessed components of the course must be retaken.
All retaken examinations will incur an additional fee.

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.