RESEARCH PROPOSAL

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| --- | --- |
| Course code | *GRAE030* |
| Compulsory in the programmes | *Financial Economics* |
| Level of studies | *Graduate* |
| Number of credits | *6 ECTS (12 contact hours + 8 consultation hours, 124 individual work hours)* |
| Course coordinator (title and name) | *Prof. Dr. Tom Hashimoto* [*tomhas@ism.lt*](mailto:tomhas@ism.lt)  *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pijus Krūminas* [*pijkru@faculty.ism.lt*](mailto:pijkru@faculty.ism.lt) |
| Prerequisites | *Research Methodology* |
| Language of instruction | *English* |

**THE AIM OF THE COURSE:**

This course guides students to prepare for their thesis writing process by surveying various topics in the field of Financial Economics. The three main foci are: literature review, research methodology, and hypotheses. All of these elements are key in developing a thesis. First, by systematically highlighting the differences between the annotated bibliography and the literature review, we emphasise the link between the existing literature and the research questions at hand. Second, by skimming through the preliminary data, we check the data availability and the feasibility of the chosen research method. Third, by articulating the hypotheses, we evaluate the proposed research design. The course begins with a discussion on research questions and research feasibility, then moves on to discussing the literature review process. It then lasts throughout the semester with consultations and concludes with the thesis proposal defence.

**MAPPING OF COURSE LEVEL LEARNING OUTCOMES (OBJECTIVES) WITH DEGREE LEVEL LEARNING OBJECTIVES (See Annex), ASSESMENT AND TEACHING METHODS**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Course level learning outcomes (objectives) | Degree level learning objectives (Number of LO) | Assessment methods | Teaching methods |
| CLO1. Identify a gap in the financial economics literature and cultivate interests in topics relevant to students’ career paths. | LO1.1, LO1.2 | Written proposal, proposal defence | Seminars, self-study, consultations |
| CLO2. Critically evaluate various research methods, especially given the data availability. | LO1.1, LO1.2 | Written proposal, proposal defence | Seminars, self-study, consultations |
| CLO3. Formulate a series of hypotheses relevant to the given research questions and develop a habit to continuously assess the progress of own research. | LO1.1, LO1.2 | Written proposal, proposal defence | Seminars, self-study, consultations |
| CLO4. Strengthen communication skills both in the written form as well as in presentation in order to stimulate discussions in the field of financial economics. | LO3.1, LO3.2 | Written proposal, proposal defence | Seminars, self-study, consultations |

**ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY**

The ISM University of Management and Economics Code of Ethics, including cheating and plagiarism are fully applicable and will be strictly enforced in the course. Academic dishonesty, and cheating can and will lead to a report to the ISM Committee of Ethics. With regard to remote learning, ISM remind students that they are expected to adhere and maintain the same academic honesty and integrity that they would in a classroom setting.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **In-class hours** | **Readings** |
| Seminar: Hypotheses vs Research Questions: Assessing the Feasibility | 4 | - |
| Seminar: Annotated Bibliography vs Literature Review | 4 | - |
| Workshop: Developing research questions and Q&A | 4 | - |
| Consultation: Q&A on research proposal progress | 4 | - |
| Consultation: Q&A on research proposal progress | 4 | - |
| Proposal defence | - | - |
|  | **Total: 20 hours** |  |

**FINAL GRADE COMPOSITION**

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| --- | --- |
| **Type of assignment** | **%** |
| *Group Components 0%* |  |
| *Individual Components 100%* |  |
| Topic registration | 0 |
| Written proposal | 40 |
| Proposal defence | 60 |
| **Total:** | **100** |

**DESCRIPTION AND GRADING CRITERIA OF EACH ASSIGNMENT**

The course is graded as pass/fail.

*Topic registration* refers to Appendix 1 of the Thesis Requirements. It lists a preliminary topic choice. The appointment of thesis adviser shall follow shortly after the submission of Appendix 1. Thereafter, students are entitled for periodical consultations from their appointed advisers.

*Written proposal* is a 4,500 – 5,500-word document highlighting the relevance of the chosen research question. It is equivalent to the introduction and literature review chapters of the thesis and can be included as a part of master’s thesis after a successful defence. It must demonstrate the students’ reply to the three main foci of this course, i.e. literature review, research methodology, and hypotheses. The proposals are evaluated by their thesis advisors on the pass / non-pass basis.

Note: The proposal is checked for plagiarism.

*Proposal defence* is a 10-minute presentation to communicate the results of the survey on the relevant literature as well as the hypotheses. The committee asks questions regarding the literature review, methodology, and hypotheses during the defence, and evaluates on the pass / non-pass basis. The advisers may attend the defence as observers but cannot contribute to the grading of the defence. Proposal defence is also a requirement specified in the Thesis Requirements.

**RETAKE POLICY**

If a student does not pass the course, the second proposal defence will be organised based on the updated proposal.

**ADDITIONAL REMARKS**

The role of the course coordinators is to deliver seminars and guide students to identify the research questions through consultations.

The role of the adviser is to guide students to prepare the written proposal as a part of the thesis. Please refer to the Thesis Requirements for details.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

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**ADDITIONAL READINGS**

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(Last updated: 2022 08 17)

**ANNEX**

**DEGREE LEVEL LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

**Learning objectives for Master of Social Science**

*Programme:*

*Financial Economics*

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| --- | --- |
| **Learning Goals** | **Learning Objectives** |
| Students will be critical thinkers | LO1.1. Students will be able to identify underlying assumptions, limitations of previous research; evaluate managerial solution alternatives. |
| LO1.2. Students will become **independent learners** and develop their own comprehension of scientific theories, models, and concepts. |
| Students will be socially responsible leaders | LO2.1. Students will be able to evaluate past and current practices in their discipline from an **ethical perspective**. |
| Students will be effective communicators | LO3.1. Students will develop and deliver a **coherent oral presentation**. |
| LO3.2. Students will develop and deliver a **coherent written research paper**. |