

IFI7007	Research Methods		
Study load: (4 ECTS/EAP)	Load of contact hours: 30	Study semester: Spring 2012	Exam
Objectives:	To create opportunities for acquiring theoretical knowledge about various research approaches and to support developing ones ability to apply as well as to evaluate the effectiveness of the use of different research methods.		
Course outline:	<p>Classification and main features of research approaches and methods. Overview of research designs for empirical and design research: experiment, survey, ethnographic research, grounded theory, narrative research, case study, action research, evaluation research. The choice of methods depending on research purposes and questions.</p> <p>Course consists of seminars where students are expected to be actively involved. In addition every student must submit home assignment, which consists of three parts and covers all methodological aspects of the research project.</p>		
Learning Outcomes:	<p>Recognises and can comparatively differentiate between different types of research designs;</p> <p>Knows what are the main quality criteria for academic research and can evaluate the quality of a given study according to these criteria;</p> <p>Can set up research questions and choose the appropriate methodology according to the set questions;</p> <p>Can design simple instruments for data collection;</p> <p>Can structure the study while writing up and format the thesis according to the requirements.</p>		
Assessment Methods:	Exam. Research plan 30 %, research plan essay 50 %, individual and group work in seminars 20 %.		
Teacher(s):	Prof Tobias Ley		
Subject name in Estonian:	Uurimismeetodid		
Prerequisite subjekt(s):	None		
Compulsory Literature:	Reading one research article that will be assigned by the beginning of the class.		
Replacement Literature:	<p>Brewerton, Millward (2001). Organizational Research Methods, Sage</p> <p>Cohen, Manion, Morrison (2007). Research Methods in Education.</p>		

	Routledge.
<i>Participation and Exam requirements:</i>	Students must participate in 80% of the class sessions. Students must complete a short 2-page research plan about a research project they are planning, Students must write a more extensive 8 page research plan essay as a basis for a research project they are planning and Students must participate in the in-class individual and group exercises
<i>Independent work:</i>	Students must read and report on one research study, describe the research question, design, data collection and analysis Students must complete a 2-page research plan and an 8-page essay
<i>Grading criteria scale or the minimal level necessary for passing the subject:</i>	A - 90-100% of the work is done - excellent: outstanding work with only few minor errors. B - 80-90% of the work is done - very good: above average work but with some minor errors. C - 70-80% of the work is done - good: generally good work with a number of notable errors. D - 60-70% of the work is done - satisfactory: reasonable work but with significant shortcomings. E - 50-60% of the work is done - sufficient: passable performance meeting the minimum criteria. F- less than 50% of the work is done - fail: more work is required before the credit can be awarded.
<i>Information about the course:</i>	See separate table below!

Schedule and program of the course

February 2, 2012 4:15pm – 7:45pm	Qualitative, Quantitative and Multimethod Research Strategies, How to write a research plan
February 9, 2012 4:15pm – 7:45pm	Experimental Research Designs
February 16, 2012 4:15pm – 7:45pm	Correlational and Survey Research
February 23, 2012 4:15pm – 7:45pm	Case Study Research
March 1, 2012 4:15pm – 7:45pm	Ethnographic and naturalistic research
March 8, 2012 4:15pm – 7:45pm	Grounded Theory and Qualitative Designs
March 15, 2012 4:15pm – 7:45pm	Reporting Research Results, Ethical Considerations, Special issues for Organizational Settings

