

<b>Subject code:</b> <b>IFI7308.DT</b>	<b>Subject Name:</b> <b>Research Methods</b>		
<b>Study load:</b> 6 ECTS/EAP	<b>Load of contact hours:</b> 32	<b>Study semester:</b> Spring 2017	Exam
<b>Objectives:</b>	To create opportunities for acquiring theoretical knowledge about various research approaches and to support developing the students' ability to apply as well as to evaluate the effectiveness of different research methods.		
<b>Course outline:</b>	<p>How to write a research plan and proposal, how to formulate research questions and choose appropriate methods  Classification and main features of research approaches/ methodologies and methods.  Overview of research designs for empirical and design research: experiment, survey, grounded theory, case study, action research, evaluation research. The following research methods are covered: designing controlled experiments, designing questionnaires, conducting interviews, analyzing verbal data, analyzing transaction logs.  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>		
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b>	<p>Recognizes and can comparatively differentiate between different types of research designs;  Knows what are the main quality criteria for academic research and can evaluate the quality of a given study according to these criteria;  Can set up research questions and choose the appropriate methodology according to the set questions;  Can design simple instruments for data collection;  Can structure the study while writing up and format the thesis according to the requirements.</p>		
<b>Assessment Methods:</b>	Exam. Initial Research plan 20 %, research proposal 40 %, individual assignments and group work in seminars 40 %.		
<b>Teacher(s):</b>	Prof Tobias Ley, Dr. Terje Väljataga, Dr. Aleksander Väljamäe		
<b>Subject name in Estonian:</b>	Uurimismeetodid		
<b>Prerequisite subject(s):</b>			
<b>Compulsory Literature:</b>	Reading research articles that will be assigned by the beginning of the class.		
<b>Replacement Literature:</b>	Brewerton, Millward (2001). Organizational Research Methods, Sage Cohen, Manion, Morrison (2007). Research Methods in Education.		

	Routledge.
<b><i>Participation and Exam requirements:</i></b>	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 5 page research proposal as a basis for a research project they are planning and Students must prepare answers to home assignments and discuss them in class, and participate in the in-class individual and group exercises.
<b><i>Independent work:</i></b>	Students must read 5 research articles about research studies and describe the research question, design, data collection and analysis used in the reported articles.  Students must complete a 2-page research plan and an 8-page essay
<b><i>Grading criteria scale or the minimal level necessary for passing the subject:</i></b>	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.
<b><i>Information about the course:</i></b>	Feb 3, 2017: General approaches and methodologies of how to do research, How to write a research plan Feb 17, 2017: Correlational and Survey Research, Questionnaire Design Feb 18, 2017: Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Research Designs March 03, 2017: Design Research, Case Study Research March 17, 2017: Action Research, Grounded Theory March 18, 2017: Implicit Behavioral Research Methods, Analyzing Transaction Logs, Psycho-physiological Methods March 31, 2017: Conducting Interviews, Analyzing Verbal Data, April 13, 2017: Finding Literature, Ethical Considerations, Citing Others, Reporting Research Results

Teaching Unit in charge:	School of Digital Technologies
Course programme is prepared by:	Tobias Ley

Signature:	
Date:	12.01.17

The course program is registered in the academic unit:

Date:	13.01.2017
Name of academic coordinator:	Viktoría Humal
Signature:	