

Subject code: IFI7007	Subject Name: Research Methods		
Study load: (4 ECTS/EAP)	Load of contact hours: 27	Study semester: Fall 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>Recognize 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. Initial Research plan 20 %, research proposal 40 %, individual and group work in seminars 40 %.		
Teacher(s):	Prof Tobias Ley, Dr. Terje Våljataga		
Subject name in Estonian:	Uurimismeetodid		
Prerequisite subject(s):			
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. Routledge.</p>		
Participation and Exam requirements:	<p>Students must participate in 80% of the class sessions.</p> <p>Students must complete a short 2-page research plan about a research project they are planning,</p>		

	<p>Students must write a more extensive 5 page research proposal as a basis for a research project they are planning and</p> <p>Students must participate in the in-class individual and group exercises</p>
<i>Independent work:</i>	<p>Students must read and report on one research study, describe the research question, design, data collection and analysis</p> <p>Students must complete a 2-page research plan and an 8-page essay</p>
<i>Grading criteria scale or the minimal level necessary for passing the subject:</i>	<p>A - 90-100% of the work is done - excellent: outstanding work with only few minor errors.</p> <p>B - 80-90% of the work is done - very good: above average work but with some minor errors.</p> <p>C - 70-80% of the work is done - good: generally good work with a number of notable errors.</p> <p>D - 60-70% of the work is done - satisfactory: reasonable work but with significant shortcomings.</p> <p>E - 50-60% of the work is done - sufficient: passable performance meeting the minimum criteria.</p> <p>F- less than 50% of the work is done - fail: more work is required before the credit can be awarded.</p>
<i>Information about the course:</i>	<p>Nov 2, 2012 at 10am to 1pm Session 1: Qualitative, Quantitative and Multimethod Research Strategies, How to write a research plan</p> <p>Nov 3, 2012 at 10am to 2pm Session 2: Correlational and Survey Research</p> <p>Nov 16, 2012 at 10am to 3pm Session 3: Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Research Designs</p> <p>Nov 17, 2012 at 10am to 2pm Session 4: Case Study Research, Conducting Interviews</p> <p>Nov 30, 2012 at 2pm to 5pm Session 5: Ethnographic and naturalistic research, Grounded Theory, Analyzing Verbal Data</p> <p>Dec 1, 2012 at 10am to 2pm Session 6: Design Research</p> <p>Dec 14, 2012 at 1pm to 5pm Session 7: Reporting Research Results, Ethical Considerations, Special issues for Organizational Settings</p>