



Course syllabus

School of Business and Economics

Department of Organisation and Entrepreneurship

4FE73E Business Administration with specialization in Leadership and Management, Scientific Article and Degree Project (Master), 30 högskolepoäng

Business Administration with specialization in Leadership and Management, Scientific Article and Degree Project (Master), 30 credits

Main field of study

Business Administration

Subject Group

Business Administration

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1E

Date of Ratification

Approved by School of Business and Economics 2015-09-15

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2016

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for studies on second level, and specific entry requirements Business Administration 1-105 credits, with at least 15 credits on the second level within leadership and management, including an independent degree thesis on level G2E. Engelska B/6.

Objectives

After completing this course the student should be able to:

- identify a research question and design a project to answer it
- write a critical literature review
- demonstrate the ability to plan and using appropriate methods carry out advanced research projects, as well as, presenting them in the format of a thesis and a scientific article

Content

The course consists of three distinctive and integrated activities:

Project Management

This is a process that starts at early stage of this course and aims at organising and managing all the activities related to the thesis. These groups are formed, and seminars are organised in order to culminate in a thesis proposal for each group. The thesis proposal must contain a thorough description of the research problem, the research questions as well as a vision of a supporting theoretical framework and a vision of how a prospective empirical investigation is to be conducted. During this initial process, the students have the opportunity to specialise in areas with relevance to leadership and management in international contexts.

Methodology

Throughout the whole course regular seminars on methodology are provided. Different methodological approaches are studied and the implications they have on research are examined. Each thesis group is given the possibility to relate methodological issues to their particular research problem. Thus, approaches such as case study, grounded theory and quantitative survey methods are examined and evaluated. The students are thereby trained in the principles of valid research methodologies and in the relationship between the research problem and the adequate methodological approach. The project management part of this course starts at the very beginning of the programme where the course is integrated, thus encouraging and helping the students to enter into the process of formulating a thesis proposal and related issues at an early stage. This process allows for the maturation of the end result and gives many correcting opportunities.

Research and the art of writing

The student's progress and knowledge acquisition are continually monitored through written papers, team work activities and presentations of the progress and results. Students have the opportunity to study scientific papers, conference proceedings, journal articles and finished theses in order to gain and improve their own research and writing skills. The course also hosts researchers and PhD students who present their work, their methodologies and their writing routines.

Type of Instruction

Participation in lectures, seminars and teamwork activities is mandatory. There will be a possibility to present the written thesis either in a monographic form or in a series of short scientific papers. Obligatory parts are stated in the schedule.

The teaching forms are integrated.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E, Fx or F.

The degree project consists of a written report that will be defended during a seminar. Students are also required to pursue an oral and written opposition on another degree project as part of the examination. The students are expected, on top of the thesis, also to write a summarizing text of about 15-20 pages in a scientific article format.

The grade A constitutes the highest grade on the scale and the remaining grades follow in descending order where the grade E is the lowest grade on the scale that will result in a pass. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as fail.

A degree project that is not assessed to possibly fulfill the requirements at the final tutoring is recommended not to be treated at the originally scheduled final seminar.

Grading criteria for the A–F scale are communicated in writing to the student by the start of the course/module at the latest, as well as how grades on separate elements of examination are weighed to a final course grade.

Course Evaluation

During the implementation of the course or in close connection to the course a course evaluation is to be carried out. Result and analysis of the course evaluation is to be presented as feedback both to the students who have completed the course and to the students who are to participate on the course the next time it is offered. The course evaluation is to be carried out anonymously.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Required reading

Daudi, Ph. *Generating Knowledge and the Theory of Discourse*, Ch 3 in *The Discourse of Power in Managerial Praxis*, Basil Blackwell, Oxford. Latest edition.

Fisher, C. *Researching and Writing a Dissertation for Business Students*, Pearson Education Ltd. Latest edition.

Strauss, A., & Corbin, J. *Basics of Qualitative research: Grounded Theory Procedures and Techniques*, Sage Publications, Newbury Park. Latest edition.

Strauss, A., & Corbin, J. *Grounded Theory in Practice*, Sage Publications. Latest edition.

Yin, Robert K. *Case Study Research. Design and Methods*, Second Edition, Sage. Latest edition.

Additional teaching material: scientific papers, about 200 pages.

Additional literature is chosen in consultation with the supervisor.