

Subject code: IFI7007	Subject Name: Research Methods		
Study load: 4 (ECTS/EAP)	Load of contact hours: 30	Study semester: Spring 2015	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>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>		
Learning Outcomes:	<p>Recognises 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>		
Assessment Methods:	Exam. Initial Research plan 20 %, research proposal 40 %, individual assignments and group work in seminars 40 %.		
Teacher(s):	Prof Tobias Ley, Dr. Terje Väljataga		
Subject name in Estonian:	Uurimismeetodid		
Prerequisite subjekt(s):	-		
Compulsory Literature:	Reading research articles that will be assigned by the beginning of the class.		
Replacement Literature:	Brewerton, Millward (2001). Organizational Research Methods, Sage Cohen, Manion, Morrison (2007). Research Methods in Education. Routledge.		

<i>Participation and Exam requirements:</i>	<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 prepare answers to home assignments and discuss them in class, and participate in the in-class individual and group exercises</p>
<i>Independent work:</i>	<p>Students must read 4 research articles about research studies and describe the research question, design, data collection and analysis used in the reported articles</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>Feb 26&27, 2015 (room A-440): General approaches and methodologies of how to do research, How to write a research plan</p> <p>March 13, 2015 (room A-440): Design Research</p> <p>March 27& April 09, 2015 (room A-440): Correlational and Survey Research, Questionnaire Design</p> <p>April 11, 2015 (room A-440): Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Research Designs</p> <p>April 24, 2015 (room A-440): Action Research, Analyzing Transaction Logs</p> <p>April 25, 2015 (room A-440): Conducting Interviews</p> <p>May 07, 2015 (room A-440): Analyzing Verbal Data, Grounded Theory</p> <p>May 08, 2015 (room A-440): Finding Literature, Ethical Considerations, Citing Others, Reporting Research Results.</p>