

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/Department:	Business & Economics
Programme:	BA (Hons) Business Administration with Combined Studies
FHEQ Level:	6
Course Title:	Senior Project in Business Administration
Course Code:	MGT 6297
Course Leader:	Bryan McIntosh
Student Engagement Hours:	240-270
Group Seminars	25
Tutorials Supervisor Meetings:	15
Independent / Guided Learning:	210-240
Semester:	Fall/Spring
Credits:	24 UK CATS credits 12 ECTS credits 6 US credits

Course Description:

The senior project forms the culmination of a student's studies in the business major. It consists of a research project and seminars, in which a variety of issues, some topical, are discussed. Some discussions will relate directly to the project. The project requires a significant level of enquiry and research in business and management, and will typically investigate a hypothesis or issue on a relevant topic. Following a literature survey in the early part of the semester, students will conduct individual research work on an agreed topic. The supervisor(s) will facilitate the process through regularly-scheduled meetings.

Pre-requisites: MGT 5210

Aims and Objectives:

The Course provides students with the opportunity to work independently to develop their ability to make critical and evaluative judgements. It is expected that this will provide an opportunity to integrate learning with practice, developing the student's ability to be an effective, reflective manager. By completing their project, students should demonstrate that they are able to produce work that is relevant to their pathway / concentration and in professional practice, and has an academic standing at honours level.

Programme Outcomes

A1-7
B1-5
C1-2
D1-5

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, a successful student should be able to

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Select, evaluate and apply critical management thinking to an organisational issue or problem.
2. Critically evaluate the techniques and processes used to investigate an important organisational issue or problem.
3. Synthesise information to arrive at a coherent conclusion.
4. Critically evaluate the implications for the recommendations presented.
5. Critically reflect on their development of knowledge, skills and techniques used during the preparation of the dissertation.

Cognitive Skills

1. Understanding some of applications relating to the use of research.
2. Being able to synthesise information supported by primary and secondary research.
3. Evaluate critically work undertaken by themselves and others.
4. Present findings successfully.
5. Research material from a variety of sources and evidence critically.

Practical and/or Professional Skills

1. The ability to apply theoretical models to finding resolution for business problems.
2. Develop an awareness of the professional and managerial requirements of a manager both in attitude and skills

Key Skills

1. Effective oral and written communication skills in a range of media.
2. Ability to develop strong analytical skills through listening and reflecting.
3. Knowledge and understanding in the context of the subject.
4. Time management: organising and planning work.
5. Independent working.
6. Planning, monitoring, reviewing and evaluating own learning and development.

Indicative Content:

1. Research methods
2. Research approaches and design

3. Literature review
4. Evaluating and referencing sources
5. Ethics and research
6. Presenting research results
7. Writing research projects

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Writing Intensive Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

Teaching Methodology:

Semi-formal supervision sessions will consist of a mixture of instructor and student led activities.

Bibliography:

Recommended text

Saunders, M., Lewis, P., and Thornhill, A. (2010) (6th edition) *Research Methods for Business Students*. Harlow: FT Prentice Hall.

Other books

Baker, M.J. (2003) *Business and Management Research*. Helensburgh: Western Publishers Ltd.

Bell, J. (2010) (5th edition) *Doing Your Research Project*. Maidenhead: Open University Press.

Brace, I. (2008) (2nd edition) *Market Research in Practice: Questionnaire Design*. London: Kogan Page.

Bryman, A. and Bell, E. (2007) (2nd edition) *Business Research Methods*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Cassell, C. and Symon, G. (2004) *Essential Guide to Qualitative Methods in Organizational Research*. London: Sage Publications Ltd.

Cottrell, S. (2008) (3rd edition) *The Study Skills Handbook*. Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Cryer, P. (2006) *The Research Student's Guide to Success*. Maidenhead: Open University Press.

Easterby-Smith, M., Thorpe, R. and Jackson, P. (2008) (3rd edition) *Management Research* London: Sage Publications.

Gillham, W. (2008) *Developing a Questionnaire*. London: Continuum International Publishing Group Ltd.

Gillham, W. (2005) *Research Interviewing*. Maidenhead: Open University Press.

Glatthorn, A and Joyner, R (2nd edition) (2005) *Writing the Winning Thesis or Dissertation: A Step-by-Step Guide*. London: Sage Publications.

Levin, P. (2010) (2nd edition) *Excellent Dissertations!* Maidenhead: Open University Press.

Robson, C. (2003) *Real World Research*. London: Blackwell.

Rudestam, K.E. and Newton, R. R. (2007) (3rd edition) *Surviving Your Dissertation. A Comprehensive Guide to Content and Process*. London: Sage.

Wallace, M. and Wray, A. (2006) *Critical Reading and Writing for Postgraduates*. London: Sage Publications Ltd.

Walliman, N. (2005) (2nd edition) *Your Research Project: A Step-by-Step Guide for the First-Time Researcher*. London: Sage Publications.

