COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

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

Academic School/Department: Business and Economics

Programme: BA (Hons) Economics with Combined Studies

BA International and Development Economics

BA Financial Economics

FHEQ Level: 6

Course Title: Senior Project

Course Code: ECN 6297

Course Leader: Sabine Spangenberg

Student Engagement Hours:240-270Supervisor Meetings:30Independent / Guided Learning:210-240

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 24 UK CATS credits

12 ECTS credits 6 US credits

Course Description:

Following a literature survey in the early part of the semester, students will conduct individual research work. The instructor 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 conduct independent research and make critical and evaluative judgements within an economic area of the student's choice. The aim of this Course is to integrate economic theory, quantitative or qualitative research methods and interpretation or synthesis to analyse economic issues of theoretical or political relevance.

Programme Outcomes

A1, A4, A5 B1, B2, B3, B4

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. Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the key theories and concepts in the chosen field of economics.
- 2. Critically appraise chosen theoretical frameworks.
- 3. Display a critical understanding of the analytical methods and the sources and use of data in the field of economics
- 4. Display an in-depth understanding of methodological issues and the conceptualisation of economic ideas and synthesise information to arrive at a coherent conclusion (in case of quantitative method of analysis).
- 5. Apply economic models to the chosen topic of research and give conclusions and policy recommendations.

Subject-Specific Skills:

- 1. Make use of abstract, graphical and mathematical methods of analysis.
- 2. Assess the appropriateness of a theoretical approach to a given situation, and apply appropriate models to given scenarios.
- 3. Use discrete methodological approaches to solve given problem or research the area of investigation.
- 4. Choose appropriate data or source of evidence which enhances the student's ability of problem-solving and decision-making.
- 5. Place economic parameters into the wider context of social and political frames.
- 6. Communicate the assessment and the limitations of the given research.

Other Skills:

- 1. Plan, review and re-assess their progress during the period of conducting the senior project.
- 2. Manage their time independently and organise their research approach under supervision from the
 - instructor.
- 3. Produce a coherent dissertation of about 8000 words.
- 4. Present their research findings in a verbal and visual form.

Indicative Content:

- 1. Framing of research question
- 2. Research methods
- 3. Identification of suitable research methodology
- 4. Literature investigation and review
- 5. Quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques
- 6. Evaluating and referencing sources
- 7. Interpretation of research results
- 8. Evaluation of research
- 9. Presenting research results
- 10. Writing research projects

Assessment:

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

Teaching Method:

The Senior Project is based on independent research that is supervised by an instructor. It can be expected that student and supervisor meet once/twice a week to discuss the student's research progress and for the student to receive feedback on partial work submitted to the supervisor. The student will be supervised by one of the following faculty depending on the area of research:

Dr Cohen – macroeconomics, financial economics, finance, monetary economics.

Professor Dabir-Alai – development economics, economics of transition, labour economics, monetary economics.

Dr Spangenberg – history of economic thought, economic philosophy, welfare economics, values and institutions, development economics, environmental economics.

Dr Wilkinson – applied microeconomics, behavioural economics, financial economics, international economics.

Bibliography:

Readings and resources

The appropriate literature list will be dependent on your research area and as such will become part of your research in itself.

Some "how to write a thesis"- sources:

Maurray, R. (2006) How to write a thesis, 2nd edition, Maidenhead, Open University Press Redestam, K.E.; Newton, R.R. (2007) Your dissertation. A comprehensive Guide to Content and Process, 3rd edition, London: Sage.

Swetnam, D. (2000) Writing your dissertation, 3rd edition, Oxford: How to Books.

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or	Nature of Change	Date Approved &	Change
Minor		Approval Body (School	Actioned by
Change?		or LTPC)	Academic
			Registry