

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Richmond Business School
Programme:	BA (Hons) Economics with Combined Studies
FHEQ Level:	6
Course Title:	Senior Project in Economics
Course Code:	ECN 6297
Course Leader:	Sabine Spangenberg
Student Engagement Hours:	240
Lectures:	
Seminar / Tutorials:	30
Independent / Guided Learning:	210
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 class meetings. The area of research is agreed between the student and the instructor. This project will typically involve a literature research based on a definition of an economic problem, the use of economic data, an analysis to explain the problem; and the formulation of a conclusion or resolution as well as, where possible, policy recommendations. The analysis of the problem can be quantitative and/or qualitative depending on the specific research area chosen by the student.

Prerequisites:

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 judgments 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 archive maintained by the Registry and found

at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students 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 8000-10.000 words.
 4. Present their research findings in a verbal and visual form.
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Indicative Content:

- Identification of question statement
- Literature investigation and review
- Methodology
- Data Analysis techniques (quantitative and qualitative)
- Evaluation of sources
- Interpretation of research results
- Presenting research result in written form
- Conclusions
- Policy recommendations

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Writing Intensive Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

The Senior Project is based on independent research that is supervised by the instructor. There will be class meeting times which allow discussions on progress on work. The student can expect to receive feedback on progress and on partial work submitted to the instructor.

Indicative Text(s):

Fisher, C., 2010. *Researching and Writing a Dissertation*. 3rd ed. London: Prentice Hall.
Greetham, B. (2014) *How to write an undergraduate dissertation*, 2nd ed., Basingstoke: Palgrave.
Sydsaeter, K., Hammond, P., Strom, A., Carvajal, A. (2016) *Essential Mathematics for Economic Analysis*, 5th edition, Harlow: Pearson.
Wyers, J., McMillan, K. (21011) *How to write dissertations and project reports*, 2nd edition, Harlow: Pearson.

Journals

Web Sites

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
Updated reading list, course description, aims and objectives	School Board Sept 2019, AB September 2019	