

UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS - VARNA
FACULTY OF FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL ECONOMIC THEORY

Adopted by the FC (record №11/ 25.04.2024)
Adopted by the DC (record №11/ 09.04.2024)

ACCEPTED BY:
Dean:
(Assoc. Prof. Daniela Georgieva, PhD)

SYLLABUS

SUBJECT: DISSERTATION SEMINAR

DEGREE PROGRAMME: International Business and Management; MASTER`S DEGREE

YEAR OF STUDY: 6; SEMESTER: 12

TOTAL STUDENT WORKLOAD: 240 hours; incl. curricular 45 hours

CREDITS: 8

DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENT WORKLOAD ACCORDING TO THE CURRICULUM

<i>TYPE OF STUDY HOURS</i>	WORKLOAD, hours	TEACHING HOURS PER WEEK, hours
CURRICULAR: incl. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LECTURES• SEMINARS / LAB. EXERCISES	30 15	2 1
EXTRACURRICULAR	195	-

Prepared by:

1.
(Assoc. Prof. Kaloyan Kolev, PhD)
2.
(Chief Assist. Prof. Veniamin Todorov, PhD)

Head of department
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(Assoc. Prof. Kaloyan Kolev, PhD)

I. ANNOTATION

The purpose of the Dissertation seminar is to prepare students for the successful writing and defense of a master's thesis. It primarily focuses on providing students with various approaches, resources, and specific methods for conducting scientific research activities. The seminar covers a range of important Themes, including the characteristics of academic writing, the process of selecting a suitable Theme and research questions, the methodology involved in scientific research, the conduction of both theoretical and empirical analysis, the structuring of the master's thesis, and the necessary preparations for its defense.

Upon completion of the seminar, students are expected to apply the knowledge they have acquired by either selecting a Theme for their master's thesis, creating a sample research structure, or developing a course project with a research-oriented approach (for students who chose to take a written state exam).

The Dissertation seminar develops the following key competencies (according to the recommendation of the Council of the European Union dated May 22, 2018):

- *Mathematical competence - the ability to develop and apply mathematical thinking and perspectives in order to solve various problems in everyday situations.*
- *Digital competence - skillfully, critically, and responsibly using digital technologies.*
- *Personal competence - the ability to reflect on one's own essence and behavior, effectively manage time and information, and engage in constructive dialogue with others.*

II. THEMATIC CONTENT

№	TITLE OF UNIT AND SUBTHEMES	NUMBER OF HOURS		
		L	S	L.E.
Theme 1. PARTICULARITIES AND PRINCIPLES OF ACADEMIC WRITING.		4	2	
1.1.	Nature and functions of academic writing.			
1.2.	Writing as a process.			
1.3.	Academic genres.			
1.4.	Academic text structure.			
1.5.	Accuracy and relevance of the statement.			
Theme 2. CHOOSING A THEME FOR A MASTER'S THESIS.		3	2	
2.1.	Self-assessment of personal strengths and weaknesses.			
2.2.	Choice of scientific field.			
2.3.	Defining a specific research problem and questions.			
Theme 3. LITERATURE REVIEW.		4	2	
3.1.	Types of literary sources. Selection of literary sources.			
3.2.	Critical analysis of literary sources.			
3.3.	Reference and citation of the literary sources.			
3.4.	Plagiarism.			
Theme 4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.		3	2	
4.1.	Definition of object and subject of research, hypothesis.			
4.2.	Choosing a theoretical approach to the research problem.			
4.3.	Limiting framework of the study.			
Theme 5. COLLECTION, PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS OF DATA.		5	3	

5.1.	Data sources and collection methods.			
5.2.	Systematization and data processing.			
5.3.	Descriptive data analysis.			
5.4.	Basic methods of econometric analysis.			
Theme 6. PREPARATION OF THE MASTER'S THESIS.		4	2	
6.1.	Basic structural units of the master's thesis.			
6.2.	Importance and content of the introduction.			
6.3.	Preparation of the theoretical part of the master's thesis.			
6.4.	Presentation of the practical research and its results.			
6.5.	Conclusion.			
6.6.	Importance of personal ideas and contributions in the master's thesis.			
Theme 7. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GRADUATE STUDENT AND THE SUPERVISOR.		2		
7.1.	Role and responsibilities of the research supervisor.			
7.2.	Organization of work with the scientific supervisor.			
Theme 8. FORMATION AND SUBMISSION OF THE MASTER'S THESIS.		2		
8.1.	Technical requirements.			
8.2.	Review procedure.			
Theme 9. PREPARATION FOR DEFENSE OF THE MASTER'S THESIS.		3	2	
9.1.	Preparation of a summary of the master's thesis before the state committee.			
9.2.	Preparing a presentation.			
9.3.	Formulating answers to reviewers' questions.			
Total:		30	15	

III. FORMS OF CONTROL:

№	TYPE AND FORM OF CONTROL	Number	extracurricular, hours
1.	Midterm control		
1.1.	Literature review	1	80
1.2.	Course assignment	1	115
Total midterm control:		2	195
2.	Final term control		
2.1.	Continuous assessment	0	0
Total final term control:		0	0
Total for all types of control:		2	195

IV. LITERATURE

REQUIRED (BASIC) LITERATURE:

1. Hammond, M. Writing a Postgraduate Thesis or Dissertation: Tools for Success. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group, 2022.
2. Thomas, G. How to do your research project: A guide for students (3rd. edition). SAGE Publications Ltd, 2017.
3. Murray, R. How to write a Thesis (4th edition). Open University Press, 2017.

RECOMMENDED (ADDITIONAL) LITERATURE:

1. Machi, L., Brenda T. McEvoy, B. The Literature Review: Six Steps to Success (2nd edition). Corwin, 2012.
2. Saunders, M., Lewis, Ph. and Thornhill, A. Research Methods for Business Students (8th edition). Pearson Higher Education, 2019.
3. Dawson, Catherine. Practical research methods: a user-friendly guide to mastering research techniques and projects. How To Books Ltd, 2002.