

American University of Central Asia
Bachelor of Business Administration

Syllabus

BA Senior Thesis Seminar II

Course Number: BUS490.2

Number of Credits: 3

Prerequisites: Senior Thesis Seminar I

IMPORTANT: We will use Google Classroom to post materials and submit assignments. You should join BA Senior Seminar group by logging into <http://classroom.google.com> using your AUCA webmail and inputting the following code: 9zmx8

Course Description:

The goal of this course is to give you an appreciation for the uses and art of research or, as Feynman puts it, “the pleasure of finding things out.”

This course is conceived primarily as preparation for your thesis defense, but likewise aims to equip you to use your research to create influence. Generating impact means far more than taking observations and writing them on paper; it means reaching and inspiring those in your target audience. This course seeks to give you adequate knowledge both to appreciate this quality in the work of others and to apply it effectively in your own.

Course Objectives:

After finishing this course, you will feel confident doing the following:

1. Carrying out high-quality, independent, and potentially publishable research projects
2. Appreciating how to influence and engage different audiences using your work
3. Critiquing and providing constructive feedback on the work of other researchers while incorporating others’ suggestions to improve your own work
4. Understanding and appreciating the diversity and strengths of the various methods employed in the study of business
5. Applying the methods you have learned to your role in international organizations, policymaking, or companies
6. Explaining research to various stakeholders and gain the presentation skills (oral and written) required to effectively engage and influence them
7. Being entrepreneurial and able to match your research skills to build a successful career

Academic Dishonesty:

As defined, academic dishonesty is a "failure to maintain academic integrity" Failing to maintain academic integrity includes obtaining or giving help on an examination, doing work for another student, and plagiarism.

Plagiarism is a serious issue in academic settings. There is a general rule for avoiding plagiarism: never attempt to pass off another's work as your own. More specific guidelines are:

- Do not copy words from any source without quoting and citing that source. The quotation should be reproduced in the exact manner in which the quote is taken.
- Do not use the ideas, concepts or opinions from any source without citing that source. Included are key terms, technical concepts and original views.
- Paraphrasing is acceptable; however, one must take care to cite the source and not misrepresent the original thesis. Paraphrasing often is the area in which most charges of plagiarism result.

Students are expected to maintain high ethical standards in all their courses. All cases of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade and will be referred to the Chair, Business Administration department for administrative review.

Academic Policies:

Academic Policies are not course specific and therefore are created and maintained separately from this syllabus. One may examine AUCA Academic Policies in the AUCA Catalog.

Course Materials

Helpful/fun reading:

1. Dudenhefer, Paul, 2009. "A Guide to Writing in Economics." Duke University https://www.mnsu.edu/success/tutoring/writing_economics_duke.pdf
2. Davis, Don. "PhD Thesis Research: Where do I Start?" <http://www.columbia.edu/~drd28/Thesis%20Research.pdf>
3. Munger, Michael. "10 Tips on How to Write Less Badly." <http://chronicle.com/article/10-Tips-on-How-to-Write-Less/124268/>
4. MacPhail, Theresa. "The no-fail secret to finishing a dissertation." *Chronicle of Higher Education*. <https://chroniclevitae.com/news/370-the-no-fail-secret-to-writing-a-dissertation>
5. "What makes a successful paper or seminar?" Columbia University <http://www.columbia.edu/~drd28/SuccessfulPaperSeminar.pdf>
6. Lehrer, Jonah. "The Truth Wears Off: Is There Something Wrong with the Scientific Method?" *The New Yorker*, December 2010. http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2010/12/13/101213fa_fact_lehrer
7. Schwab, D. "Reviewing Empirically-Based Manuscripts." http://aom.org/uploadedFiles/Meetings/annualmeeting/program/review/reviewing_empirically_based_manuscripts_schwab_1985.pdf
8. Huff, A.S. *Writing for Scholarly Publication*, chapters 1-2. Sage Publications, 1999.
9. "Trouble at the Lab." *The Economist* <http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21588057-scientists-think-science-self-correcting-alarming-degree-it-not-trouble>
10. "How Science Goes Wrong." *The Economist* http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21588069-scientific-research-has-changed-world-now-it-needs-change-itself-how-science-goes-wrong?fb_ref=activity

11. "Academic turns city into social experiment."
<http://www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/2004/03.11/01-mockus.html>
12. Davis, Murray. 1971. "That's interesting!" *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*: 309-344.
13. Blattman, Christopher. "Short Notes on the discussant's art."
<http://chrisblattman.com/2010/02/22/the-discussants-art/>
14. Scientific American. "Publishers withdraw more than 120 gibberish science and engineering papers." http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/publishers-withdraw-more-than-120-gibberish-science-and-engineering-papers/?WT.mc_id=SA_Facebook
15. Bhattacharjee, Anol. *Social Science Research Methods: Principles, Methods, and Practices*.
http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&context=oa_textbooks
16. Ghoshal, Sumantra (2005). "Bad management theories are destroying good management practices." *Academy of Management Learning and Education*.
17. Methods courses (5-part series) by the University of Amsterdam on Coursera. The first course, Quantitative Methods, is available here:
<https://www.coursera.org/learn/quantitative-methods/home/welcome>
18. Strunk, W. (2007). *The elements of style*. Penguin.

Course Policies

Issue	Policy
Changes	The course instructors reserve the right to modify any and all portions of this syllabus at any time during the period of the course. Any modifications will be communicated in writing to students.
Submission of assignments	Written assignments are to be completed in APA style Format – <i>Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (Copies are available at BF 76.7 P83 2010 – this is the 6th ed)</i> Assignments are to be submitted online through e-course or as specified by Professor.

Grade Component	Percent
Class Participation and Engagement with Materials	20%
Chapter 2	20%
Final Draft	30%
Mock Thesis Presentation	30%
Total	100%

Overall Course Grading

This course is graded pass/fail. It *is possible* to fail if you don't keep up with assignments, actively participate and attend class.

You will automatically fail the course if one or more of the following are true:

- a. Miss more than 3 classes without a valid and verified emergency

- b. Fail to complete assignments on time or submit inadequate work
- c. On grounds of plagiarism as mentioned in the earlier section.

Office hours and contacting your professor

To contact the professors, use the available office hours, e-mail or speak with the Business Administration office manager. During office hours, no appointment is necessary; however, prior notice would be appreciated.

Tentative Schedule with due dates for assignments

#	Date	Lecture Topic	Readings Assignment
1	January 21	Introduction: The Pleasure of Finding Things Out	
2	January 28	Brevity is the Soul of Wit: On Communicating Well	
3	February 4	How to Find Answers: Understanding the Qualitative-Quantitative Divide	
4	February 11	Running Analyses and Selling Your Ideas (to the Right Audience)	
5	February 18	Making Appropriate Inferences: Reliability vs. Validity	
6	February 25	Dress to Impress: Finalizing the Core Parts of Your Thesis	
7	March 3	Inspire Me: What Makes Your Research Interesting and Meaningful?	
8	March 10	Individual Consulting	
9	March 17	Individual Consulting	
10	March 24	Spring Break – No Classes	
11	March 31	Using Research to Create Influence in Academia, Consulting & Policy	
12	April 7	Effective Presentation & Peer Review	
13	April 14	Mock Thesis Presentation & Feedback	
14	April 21	Mock Thesis Presentation & Feedback	Peer review
15	April 28	Mock Thesis Presentation & Feedback – Final Class	
16	May 10-20	Final Thesis Defense	

CRITICAL THESIS DEADLINES (DO NOT BE LATE!!):

January 29 – Chapter 2

February 26 – Chapter 3

March 7 – Pre-defense

March 25 – Second draft of thesis

April 29 – Final version of thesis due

May 10-20 – Final defense of theses