

American University of Central Asia
Course Information
School of Entrepreneurship and Business Administration
Fall 2017

Course Title:	Senior Thesis I: Academic Track
Course Code:	BUS-490.5
Course Coordinator:	Kamila Kolpashnikova
Course Duration:	XXX
No. of Credit Units:	XXX
Class meeting:	Tuesdays 10:50-12:05
Mode:	Lecture/Seminar
Contact:	Kolpashnikova_k@auca.kg
Appointments/Hours	By appointment

1. Abstract:

This course is for senior BA students to help them start their thesis projects.

2. Course Aims:

Writing a thesis can be a daunting task. This course aims at teaching students how to manage their time and divide their work into manageable smaller chunks. It walks them through the whole process of collecting data for the thesis, analyzing it, and writing a first draft.

3. Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will prepare their first drafts of senior theses. They will learn to collect and analyze their own original data. They will learn how to choose literature for their topics and how to write literature reviews. Students will learn how to build testable hypotheses, choose their variables, construct surveys, obtain IRB clearance, and prepare and format their papers.

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities

Students will submit their IRB applications and consent forms by October 5. Students will have drafts of their surveys ready for piloting by October 26. Students will submit the first drafts of their theses by December 14.

5. Course Policies:

Course instructor reserves 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.

6. Submission of Assignments:

Written assignments are to be completed in APA style Format in class on the date they are due. Late submission will account for 50% of achieved grade.

7. Academic Integrity

- I. *The use of cell phones (talking, texting, etc.) during class is strictly prohibited. Students violating this policy will be given one (1) warning. A second violation of this policy will result in the student being counted absent for the class.*
- II. *The use of any other electronic devices (SUCH AS LAPTOP, IPADS) during class for any purpose not related to the furtherance of the class objectives is strictly prohibited. Students violating this policy will be given one (1) warning. A second violation of this policy will result in the student being counted absent for the class.*
- III. *Students are expected to follow the AUCA ACADEMIC HONESTY code. All types of plagiarism are strictly prohibited. If a student fails to observe this requirement, the instructor may assign an "F" for the work or an "F" for the whole class, depending on the type of assignment and relevant circumstances. Students are expected to read and follow the section on the Student Academic Dishonesty of the AUCA Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct.*
- IV. *You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. You can give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from such students. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of an e-mail, an e-mail attachment file, a diskette, or a hard copy.*

8. GRADING CRITERIA [YOU CAN KEEP IT THE WAY IT IS AS THIS IS WHAT AUCA PRACTISES]

A 100-93%	B- 82-80%	D+ 69-67%
A- 92-90%	C+ 79-77%	D 66-61%
B+ 89-87%	C 76-73%	D- 62-60%
B 86-83%	C- 72-70%	Failing Grade: below 60%

9. Explanation of Grades Obtained

- A** Student demonstrates exceptional understanding and able to critique existing literature and shows good abilities to derive policy implications; Performs well in every aspect of class participation and submits final paper of Journal quality.
- B** Ability to think conceptually and to perform in class participations, and in final paper. Student is able to form plausible arguments and provides reasonable conclusions.
- C** Marginal ability to analyze material presented in lectures and readings. While the student has attended class and involved in discussions, performance is merely class average.
- D** Limited ability to analyze material presented in lectures and readings. While the student has attended class and involved in discussions, performance has been below class average.
- F** Poor learning or lack of effort, the student has failed to demonstrate even a minimal capacity to analyze concepts and theories. Misses most classes and performed very poorly in, or even failed to participate in class discussions. The final paper, if submitted, has been of a poor standard or plagiarized.

10. Tentative Course Schedule: *May change to accommodate guest presenters & student needs*

Schedule	Topic	Required Readings
Sep 5, 7	Course introduction; types of research	Nardi chapter 1
Sept 12, 14	Finding a research question; Ethics	Nardi chapter 2
Sept 19, 21	Designing research; operationalization, hypotheses and measurement	Nardi chapter 3
Sept 26, 28	Designing research; operationalization, hypotheses and measurement continued	
Oct 3, 5	Developing a Questionnaire/Survey Instrument	Nardi chapter 4 ETHICS/CONSENT FORM DUE Oct 5th
Oct 10, 12	Sampling	Nardi chapter 5
Oct 17, 19	Conducting the Survey – pretesting and data collection	SURVEY DUE Oct 26th
Oct 24, 26	(seminar at Harvard U)	
Oct 31, Nov 2	Codebooks and Data Entry	
Nov 7, 9	FALL BREAK	

Nov 14,16	(seminar at Hitotsubashi U, Japan)	
Nov 21, 23	Presenting Data: Descriptive Statistics, Analyzing Data: Bivariate Relationships	Nardi chapter 6, 7
Nov 28, 30	Analyzing Data: Comparing Means, Analyzing Data: Multiple Variables	Nardi chapter 8, 9
Dec 5, 7	Presenting Results and Writing Reports	Nardi chapter 10 SUBMIT DRAFT BY DEC 14

11: Readings

Nardi, Peter M. (2013). *Doing Survey Research, 3rd Edition*. Routledge.