



INTERAMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
METROPOLITAN CAMPUS
FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES
ECONOMICS SCHOOL

SYLLABUS

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

TITLE	: RESEARCH METHOD
CODE	: BADM 7020
CREDITS	: 3 (THREE)
ACADEMIC TERM	:
PROFESSOR	:
OFFICE HOUR	:
PHONE NUMBER	:
MAIL ADDRESS	:

II. DESCRIPTION:

Evaluation of the different theories, research methods, principles and instruments that give direction to scientific research applied to business administration.

III. OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, it is expected that student can:

1. Describe the concepts and practices of research methods with respect to social sciences, en particular economics and managements.
2. Relate the innovation and diversity to the practices and research.
3. Describe the process to conduct research.
4. Evaluate the relation between theory and research.
5. Evaluate the key methods in management research.
6. Evaluate the philosophical dispute in management research.

IV. CONTENT

- I. Introduction to social sciences research.
 - a. Normative and positive research methods.
 - b. Source of data: Primary and secondary data.

II. Innovation and diversity in management research.

- a. Actual practices in management research.
- b. Management research process and management development.

III. Starting management research.

- a. Source of research topics.
- b. Availability of data.
- c. Adequacy of research methods.
- d. Limitation of research.
- e. Characteristics of adequate “good” research.

IV. Theory and research.

- a. Theories and Hypothesis.
- b. Theory and management control.
- c. Deduction method and induction method.

V. Methods commonly used in management research.

- a. Experiment research design.
- b. Action research.
- c. Survey research design.
- d. Qualitative methodology (the case of ethnography).
- e. Statistical inferences in quantitative research

VI. Philosophical dispute in management research.

- a. The factors that influence observation implications (epistemology) and the status of social reality (ontology).
- b. Aspects of ethics in conducting research
- c. Positivism, neo-empiricism, and critical realism.

V. ACTIVITIES:

1. Students should read the material before the discussion in class.
2. Students are required to search for some topics, literature, and financial practices in the internet to select their research questions that are part of the evaluation.
3. Presentations of the selected topics in class individually or in small groups.

VI. EVALUATION

Evaluation	Description	Points	Percentage of total evaluation
Required research topic*	Literature review of a topic selected by the professor.	100	40%
A free-choice topic*	Selected by the student and subject to the professor approval.	100	40%
Presentation	Presentation (in groups) of the class topics	25	10%
Participation	Class participation and feedback to groups presentation	25	10%
Total		250	100%

*The research topics should be analyzed in a critical manner with appropriate references. Also, should satisfy the course objectives. The minimum acceptable work is 3,000 words and the maximum not to exceed 5,000 words. APA style is required.

Any inconvenience or any condition that will not enable a student to take one of the required evaluations should be discussed with the instructor before the date of the evaluation.

The following table is used to assess and evaluate presentations.

	Items	/	importance and achievements	<70%	70-79	80-89	90+
1	Understanding	the paper(s) summaries	Theory				
			Methodology				
			Contribution				
			Results				
2	Presentation	Adequacy	Clear and logical				
			Structured				
		Use of language	Clear and logical				
		Topic appropriateness	For Doctoral students				
3	Tools	Adequate use	PowerPoint				
4	Further research	Original suggestions	Examples of needed research				
5	Timing	adequacy	Use of time				

VII. SPECIAL NOTES

1. Auxiliary Services or Special Needs Services

Students that require special auxiliary services or special assistance must visit the office of Mr. José Rodríguez, at the University Orientation Program located at the first floor of Harris Building, at the beginning of the course or as soon as the knowledge for the need of such services is acquired.

2. Honesty, Fraud, and plagiarism Student General Regulation, Chapter 5

The lack of honesty, fraud, plagiarism and any other inappropriate behavior in relation to the academic work constitute major infringement sanctioned under the Student General Regulation. Major infractions, as provided by the regulation under student infringements can have as a result the suspension of the University for a defined period of time greater than a year or permanent expulsion from the University, among other sanctions.

3. Use of Electronic Devices

Cellular (mobile) telephones and any other electronic device that could interrupt the teaching-learning process or disrupt a milieu favorable for academic excellence will be deactivated. Critical situations will be dealt with in an appropriate manner. The use of electronic devices that permit the accessing, storing or sending of data during tests or examinations is prohibited.

VIII. RESOURCES

Textbooks:

Gill, John, Johnson, Phil & Clark, Murray (2010), Research methods for Managers, Sage Publication Ltd, 4th edition, ISBN 978-1-84787-092-3.

Pervez Ghauri and Kjell Gronhaug (2010), Research Methods in Business Studies, (4th Edition).

IX. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Berg, B.L. (2006). **Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences**, 6th edition, Allyn & Bacon.

Balsley, H. (1992). **Research for Business Decisions: Business Research Methods**. 4th edition, ManCorp Publishing, Inc. Tampa, FL.

Brenda Laurel & Peter Lunenfeld, (2003). **Design Research: Methods and Perspective**, The MIT Press.

Crewell J.W. (2002). **Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches**. 2nd edition, Sage Publications, Inc., Thousand Oaks, CA.

Donald R. Cooper & Pamela S. Schindler (2000). **Business Research Methods**, McGraw-Hill College; 7th edition.

Patton, M. (1990). **Qualitative Evaluations and Research Methods**. Sage Publications, Inc., Thousand Oaks, CA.

Stake, R. (1995). **The Art of Case Study Research**. Sage Publications, Inc., Thousand Oaks, CA.

Tesch, R. (1990) **Qualitative Research: Analysis Types and Software Tools**. The Falmer Press. New York.

Williams, F. (1992). **Reasoning with Statistics: How to Read Quantitative Research**. 4th edition. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Publishers. Fortworth.

Yin, R. (1989). **Case Study Research: Design and Methods**. Sage Publications, Inc., Thousand Oaks, CA.

Electronic Resources:

Useful Pages of the University

<http://www.inter.edu>
<http://metro.inter.edu/>

Information and Technology Center of the University

<http://cai.inter.edu/>
http://cai.inter.edu/main_pages/econo_fina_negoci.htm

Emerald Base of Data

The Faculty of Economics and Business Administration Journal
<http://ceajournal.metro.inter.edu/>

External Base of Data

Yahoo financial
Security and Exchange Commission (SEC)
American Institute of Certified Public Accountant
World Bank

<http://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/zl/Current/zlr-4.pdf>
<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbpyr.html>
www.wikipedia.org
<http://www.aeaweb.org/RFE>

GUIDELINES FOR THE COMPULSORY ESSAY

- Realistic and empirical research approaches.
- Backgrounds of positive research approach, and the aims and objectives of positive research approach.
- Backgrounds of realistic research approach, and the aims and objectives of normative accounting theories.
- The debate between the realists and the empiricists' research points of views.
- The connection, if any, between the positivist, logical positivist, and empirical research philosophy and the selected research topic by students.
- Deduction versus the induction.
- Deductive-Nomological Model (D-N model) of scientific explanation in relation to the selected research topic.
- The relation between research's approaches used in natural sciences with those used in social sciences.
- The relation to empirical evidence domination to non-empirical evidence in management field.

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