

- Faculté des sciences économiques
- www.unine.ch/seco

Research Methodology (5ER2036)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Master en sciences économiques, orientation politique économique	Cours: 4 ph	écrit: 2 h	6

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps

Equipe enseignante:

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Objectifs:

Students should be aware of the major analytical techniques in modern empirical economics. They should know how to access and read research material, how to motivate a research question, how to address it empirically and how to write a research report.

Contenu:

The course is divided in two intertwined parts, which have been designed to provide students with the tools needed to write a master thesis. The first part of the course discusses the structure and content of a research paper. We will analyze the language to employ when writing, the strategy to define a research question, the way of citing previous contributions on the same topic and of creating a literature review, and the path to follow when creating the graphs and tables legends. The second part is dedicated to the discussion of existing papers in various domains and to the preparation of a personal project. A variety of softwares will be used for both text edition (papers and presentations) and data management and analysis.

Forme de l'évaluation:

At the beginning of the semester students will be informed about a list of research topics (potentially master thesis subjects)*. Each student has to choose a theme. During the semester, they will apply to their subject the knowledge learned during the course, in order to provide, at the end of the semester, a technical report. In the last part of the course, students will summarize (10 minutes each) the findings of their research report. The report should count about 5-7 pages and it should be structured in the following way: abstract, introduction, literature review, data source, descriptive statistics, tables and graphs. The grade will be given taking into account the way of writing, of presenting tables and graphs, as well as considering the content of the report.

Final grade=presentation X .1 + report X.5 + written exam X .4

Retake exam: research project (100%)

Presentations will be scheduled during the last two weeks of the course. The report should be completed and sent by the week after the end of the course.

The final written exam will be scheduled during the exams session. With the exception of a simple calculator, no documents or connected objects will be allowed during the exams. Any violation of these rules will be considered as fraud, leading to withdrawal of unauthorized items and possibly exam failure.

*Students can choose their topic in the first 3 weeks of the course. Due to the fact that there are a limited number of topics, the research subjects will be ascribed according to the arrival order. The deadline to hand the technical report in is the Thursday that follows the last Thursday course.

Documentation:

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Relevant documents and slides will be made available on the course's Moodle page.

The course will mainly rely on two reference books;

* Angrist, Joshua D., and Jörn-Steffen Pischke. *Mastering 'metrics: The path from cause to effect*. Princeton University Press, 2014.

* Ethridge, Don Erwin. *Research methodology in applied economics: organizing, planning, and conducting economic research*. Ames: Blackwell publishing, 2004.

Pré-requis:

None

Forme de l'enseignement:

4 hours of lectures per week.