



# LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

## Course Syllabus

Course Title: Doctoral Research Seminar in Finance and Investments  
Instructor: Marshall Burak  
Course No. BA 501 Contact: mburak@lincolnuca.edu  
Units: 3 Office Hours: Tues. 10 am – Noon  
Class Hours: 45 contact hours plus 45 self-directed research hours  
Semester: Spring 2014

**Textbook:**

No textbook required

### CATALOG DESCRIPTION

BA 501 – Doctoral Research Seminar in Finance and Investments

The Doctoral Research Seminar in Finance and Investments enables students to engage in an in-depth study of current issues in the finance discipline that offer excellent opportunities for scholarly research and publication of findings. A variety of financial topics are explored from the standpoint of their conceptual framework and current financial practice. Specific financial issues are identified as areas where additional research based information would be of significant benefit to professors and practitioners in terms of understanding and /or applying financial theory, tools or analytical techniques. Financial research methodologies are presented and students are assigned focused research topics as a part of their course requirements. *Prerequisites: Completion of all DBA core and at least four concentration courses.*

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

At the beginning of this course students will be presented with a list of current financial topics that offer interesting and useful scholarly research opportunities. Each of these topics will be discussed early in the semester to describe and explore the issues where focused research would generate new and useful knowledge for professors and practitioners in the field of finance and investments. Students would then be required to select a topic for research. Once the topic is selected and approved by the instructor, students would be required to develop a research plan using Lincoln University's standard project and report format (available as a class handout and on the University web site). Once reviewed and approved by the instructor, students would begin their research independently with continuing advice, counsel and support from the instructor. Student research projects must be completed by the end of the semester and require both a formal oral presentation to the entire class and instructor and submission of the written research report.

## **Learning Objectives:**

The focus of this course is to further the student's ability to identify, structure and pursue scholarly research in a specific business area. Students completing this course are expected to have identified the topic and issues they wish to pursue for their dissertation research ensuring that they continue making steady progress toward the completion of all requirements of the DBA program. The research undertaken in this course should equip the student with the financial and investment research tools and methodologies essential for continuing and broadening their identified dissertation research objectives, process and analysis of outcomes.

## **Methodology:**

### **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

At the beginning of the semester students will be presented with a number of current financial and investment topics which offer opportunities for productive scholarly research. Students will be required to engage in a preliminary literature search to gather information on a topic of interest to them and to share with the instructor and class some of their initial research ideas. Topics selected by students will be explored in more detail during class sessions for the purpose of helping the student clarify and define the structure and content of their selected research topic and research objectives. Students will then be required to develop and submit their research plan for instructor approval. Once approved students are to begin their research. Completion of this course requires students to provide both an oral and written presentation of their research project.

### **RESEARCH ASSIGNMENTS**

Students will receive a listing of current financial and investment topics containing issues that would benefit from scholarly research. Students are to engage in an initial literature search on these topics with the intent of identifying a research topic of interest to them and be prepared to discuss the results of their literature search in class.

After class discussion and further exploration of student research area interests, each student is to develop and submit a research plan for instructor approval. Once approved, students are to undertake their chosen research area.

Students are required to provide both an oral and a written research report explaining their research selection, hypothesis or problem statement, research methodology, data analysis and findings, and summary and conclusions. Oral presentations will be scheduled for the end of the semester and attendance is required by all class members. Written research reports are due at the last class meeting.

## **Standards:**

Students are expected to attend each class meeting and be prepared to discuss all research related assignment in class. Students who come to class late will not be admitted until the break period. Every member of the class is expected to participate in discussions surrounding the assignments. There is no eating or drinking in class and the use of cell phones or laptops is only permitted if related to class assignments.

## **Project:**

### **RESEARCH PROJECT**

Student research projects are required to be turned in correct written form using the Lincoln University standard format established for such documents. Copies of the University format requirement will be handed out in class or can be obtained from the University web site.

Student oral presentations are expected to be professionally presented to the class and instructor including the use of electronically based media for display of the presentation content including slides, graphs, tables and charts.

Both the written research report and oral presentation are due on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### **EXAMINATIONS AND GRADING**

Grades for this course are CR/NC and will be determined on the following basis:

Class participation in research topic discussions	10%
Research Plan submitted for approval	25%
Oral presentation of research results	30%
Final written research report	35%
	-----
	100%

## **Classroom Protocol:**

Students are expected to be on-time for scheduled class meetings and to stay for the entire class period. Eating is not allowed in the classroom. The use of cell phones and laptops is prohibited unless related to the student's research. Laptops are allowed in class, however, surfing the internet is not permitted.

Students are expected to have prepared class discussion assignments in advance of each class meeting.

## Schedule:

### Course Outline and Assignments

<u>Date/Day/Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading &amp; Assignments</u>
Tues. Jan. 21 12:30-3:15pm	Introduction to the Course Discussion of Preliminary Research Topic List	Current Research Topic List (Handout)
Tues. Jan. 28	Expanded Discussion of Preliminary Research Topics	Initial Student Literature Search
Tues. Feb. 4	Expanded Discussion of Preliminary Research Topics	Expanded Student Literature Search
Tues. Feb. 11	Focus On Selection of a Research Topic Discussion of Business Research Methodologies	Students Form a Preliminary Research Plan
Tues. Feb. 18	Review of Individual Student Research Plans	Student Research Plans Submitted For Approval
Tues. Feb. 25	Approval of Proposed Student Research Plans Relationship between the Student's Research and the Dissertation	Creation of Time-Based Research Progress and Milestones
Tues. Mar. 4	Advising and Counseling Students	Documentation of Research Progress
Tues. Mar. 11	Advising and Counseling Students	Documentation of Research Progress
<b>Tues. Mar. 18</b>	<b>No Class Meeting (Spring Break)</b>	
Tues. Mar. 25	Advising and Counseling Students	Documentation of Research Progress
Tues. April 1	Discussion of Oral Presentation and Written Report of Research Project	Documentation of Research Progress

## Course Outline and Assignments (continued)

<u>Date/Day/Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading &amp; Assignments</u>
Tues. April 8	Advising and Counseling of Students	Documentation of Research Progress
Tues. April 15	Review of Preliminary Draft of Research Project Report Scheduling of Oral Presentations	Submission of Preliminary Draft of Research Report
Tues. April 22	Discussion and Feedback on Student Preliminary Research Drafts	Preparation and Submission of Outline for Oral Presentation of Research
Tues. April 29	Discussion of Research Project and Selection of a Dissertation Topic	Preparation of a Draft Proposal for Selection of a Dissertation Topic
<b>Tues. May 6</b>	<b>Student Research Project Oral Presentations and Submission of Written Research Report</b>	

### **Update:**

Updated January 3, 2014