



Lincoln University

BA 298 – Special Topics in Business

COURSE SYLLABUS

Summer, 2014

Lecture Schedule: Monday and Wednesday, 3:30 PM – 6:15 PM
Credit: 3 units
Instructor: Prof. Sergey Aityan
Office Hours: Monday, 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM
Wednesday, 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM
Students are advised to schedule appointments by signing their names on the appointment list which is located on the information board next to the professor's office that will ensure exact appointment time without waiting.
e-mail: aityan@lincolnuca.edu
☎: (510) 628-8016

Textbook:

- 1. Main Textbook:**
William G. Zikmund, Barry J. Babin, Jon C. Carr, and Mitch Griffin, (2008), Business Research Methods, 8th Edition, *Cengage Learning*, 674 p.
ISBN-13: 978-1-4390-8067-2
ISBN-10: 1-4390-8067-4
*** previous editions of this book are okay too ***

- 2. Course lectures notes:**
Sergey Aityan, "Business Research Methodology," the online course notes on <http://elearning.lincolnuca.edu>.

Last Revision: May 5, 2014

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course offers topics of specialized interest in the major fields of study. Case studies and independent research may be included. Topics vary each term; so students should not include this in a concentration unless they know it will be available. (1-4 units)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To introduce students to research, its goal, purpose and methodology. Students will learn how to identify and select a research problem, write a proposal, design and conduct research, write a report, make a presentation, and defend the project. Learning objectives are:

- To understand the nature of a business problem and translate it into a research problem.

- To learn major phases and steps in the research process
- To learn how to do research designs, and use data sources.
- To become familiar with major research methods in business such as sampling experiments, hypothesis testing, comparative analysis, and cyber intelligence
- To learn how to select samples and get familiar with general measurement issues.
- To understand fundamentals of survey research and basic methods of communication with respondents.
- To learn how to write reports, make presentations, and defend research projects.

PROCEDURES AND METHODOLOGY

Lecture method is used in combination with a supervised exercises and business case study. The emphasis will be on learning by doing. Every student must participate in an intensive classroom activity, must complete home tasks and course projects, and take quizzes and exams.

COURSE PROJECT

Every student must complete and submit a research proposal as a course project.

REQUIREMENTS

All students are required to attend classes. Continuous assessment is emphasized. Written or oral quizzes will be given every week. Reading, writing, home tasks, and “business case study” assignments will be made throughout the course. Students must complete all assignments and take all quizzes, mid-term exam and final exam on the **dates due**. Plagiarism will result in the grade “F” and a report to the administration.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend each class session. If you cannot attend a class due to a valid reason, please notify the instructor prior to the class.

EXAMS

Both, midterm and final exams are structured as written essay to answer the given questions. Each exam includes six questions. The essay must be written clearly and easy to read, structurally with clear logical presentation of the answers. Graphs, charts, tables, and other supporting illustrations are required if needed. Examples to illustrate the answers are required. Exams will cover all assigned chapters, any additional readings or supplementary materials covered in class. The final exam is comprehensive, i.e. includes the whole course. The exams are neither “open book” nor “open notes.”

GRADING AND SCORING

All activities will be graded according to the points as shown below.

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
Points	94-100	90-93	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	60-66	0-59

In exams, every answer is graded by points from 0 to 100 and the total points for an exam are calculated as the average of the points received for all answers in the exam.

The final grade for the course will be given as the total weighted score for all activities according to the percentage shown in the table below.

Activity	Time	Percent
Quizzes, home tasks, and classroom activities	Every week	20%
Course project		20%
Mid-term exam	In the middle of the course	30%
Final exam	Last week of the course	30%

If both grades for the midterm and final exams are “F” the term grade for the course is “F” regardless of the grades for the project and classroom activities.

MAKE-UP WORK

Assignments are to be completed on time during the course. Late assignments will result in a reduced grade. Mid-term and final exams and group presentations cannot be made up if missed unless there is a documented emergency.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Lectures	Topic	Chapters
1	(a) About the Course (b) Nature of Research	Ch. 1
2	(a) Methodology of Research (b) Research Process	Ch. 2 Ch. 3
3	(a) Selecting Research Problem (b) Data Search, Bibliography, and Review of Literature (c) Project Review	Ch. 4 Ch. 5
4	(a) Hypotheses (b) Developing Research Design	Ch. 6 Ch. 7
5	(a) Writing Research Proposal (b) Project Review	Ch. 8
6	(a) Data Collection and Measurements (b) Project Review	Ch. 9
7	(a) Probability (b) Expectation and Risk	Ch. 10 Ch. 11
8	(a) Course Review (b) Midterm Exam	Ch. 1 - 11
9	(a) Statistics (b) Sampling (c) Survey	Ch. 12 Ch. 13 Ch. 14
10	(a) Comparative Analysis (b) Deriving Conclusions	Ch. 15 Ch. 16
11	(a) Writing Research Report (b) Plagiarism (c) Project Review	Ch. 17 Ch. 18
12	(a) Research Ethics	Ch. 19

	(b) Defending Project and Publishing Papers	Ch. 20
13	Course Project Presentations	
14	(a) Course Review	
	(b) Comprehensive Final Exam	Ch. 1 – 20

OTHER COMMENTS

- Please participate. What you put into the class will determine what you get out of it – and what others get out of it.
- Please come on time. Late arrivals disturb everyone else.
- If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting notes/slide printouts on the material covered from a classmate or the instructor.
- To avoid distracting noise in class, cellular phones must be turned off or the ringing mode silenced.
- Questions and comments during the class are welcome. Do not hesitate to ask questions – do not leave anything unclear for you.

MODIFICATION OF THE SYLLABUS

The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time during the semester. Announcements of any changes will be made in a classroom.