

METHODOLOGICAL SEMINAR

Modules 6 and 8, 2019/20

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Course description

In this course, students will acquire practical skills of doing research. We will discuss different stages of making an applied research project: getting an idea, formulating a research question, writing the project proposal, making a literature review, describing data and methodology, making tables and graphs, describing results, writing introduction and conclusion, etc. We will discuss rules of citation and quotation, ethics and avoiding plagiarism. We will also talk about the roles of supervisor, referee and defense committee. The ultimate goal of the course is to make students prepared to write Term Paper and Master Thesis in the second year of MAF studies.

Grading

The course grade will be based on presentation in module 8. The grade is either “pass” or “fail”.

Course contents

Class	Topic	Reading
1	General approach to doing research. Objectives of research. Research methodology. Structure of the research paper. Starting the project. Searching for ideas. Gathering and processing information. Formulating a research question. Term Paper and Master Thesis. General requirements. Typical examples. Stages of working on the papers. Typical problems and mistakes.	
2	Working with literature. Finding relevant literature. Writing referee report and literature review. Rules of citation and quotation. Ethics and plagiarism. Data and methodology. Sources of data. Basic analysis of the data. Statistical packages. Formulation and testing of a hypothesis. Visualization of the results: tables and graphs. Interpretation of the results. Robustness checks.	

Class	Topic	Reading
3	Writing a project. Interaction with the supervisor. Working through the drafts. Writing introduction and conclusion. Editing the project.	
	Preparing to the defenses. Structure of the presentation. Making slides. Responding to questions.	

Description of course methodology

The course will be interactive and features guest speakers.

Sample tasks for course evaluation

1. What is plagiarism? How could one avoid plagiarism?
2. Explain how your idea fits in the literature. Do you need to write extensive literature review to show novelty?

Course materials

Papers and slides are uploaded at my.nes.

Academic integrity policy

Cheating, plagiarism, and any other violations of academic ethics at NES are not tolerated.