

**The Hashemite University**  
**College of Economics and Business Administration**  
**Department of Finance**  
**Fall 2012/2013**

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Course Title: Research Project

Instructor: Dr. Ahmad Khasawneh

Course Number: Fin 204797-01

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### **Introduction**

This course provides an opportunity to conduct original research on a subject that interests you. The research project is not a typical term paper built upon hours and hours of library research. Rather it is a fresh, innovative endeavor using primary sources, government documentation, and interviews with decision-makers and practitioners. The completed paper should run from a minimum of 20 to a maximum of 30 double-spaced, typed pages. The project is to focus on original first-hand research. The researcher is expected to move beyond simple examination of secondary sources and to investigate primary and documentary sources, pursue interviews with decision-makers, undertake observation of policymaking in congressional hearings, and initiate direct contact with relevant individuals and agencies concerned with the topic.

In addition, the project is to focus on a contemporary Financial, accounting and management topics. That is, it should not be a historical essay or a theoretical discourse.

To give you an idea of what is expected from you, here are some things that we will evaluate you on:

- Overall quality of research project initiative in seeking faculty guidance
- Research questions/hypotheses clearly defined
- Demonstrated adequate command and application of literature on the subject
- Methodology is good
- Data analysis techniques are good

- Results and conclusions are arrived at and are substantiated by the analyses
- Conclusions are arrived at through analytical techniques rather than biased or editorial presumptions

### **Course Requirements:**

During the semester we just have limited class meetings. Otherwise, this is an independent study course, or a tutorial. You will be consulting me individually throughout the semester in my office during my office hours. Your grade is based on how well you perform the research process and handing in assignments during the semester, also on the final product, the Research Report or Paper itself. In addition, you might have the opportunity to present your research findings to the faculty seminar on the last week of the semester. Our class meeting will be scheduled as follows:

Week/ date	details	Notes
1	Welcome and introducing the course	
2	Orientation about the course requirements and the expected learning outcomes	
5	Students should handout a 3 pages document: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3 pages include the title, the introduction, the problem of the study and the importance of the study</li> </ul>	<b>Students should get an approval for their works</b>
8	Students should handout a 6-8 pages document: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The first 3 pages approved as mentioned above</li> <li>- Another 3-5 pages about the literature (literature review and previous studies) &amp; a list of references used</li> </ul>	<b>Students should get an approval for their works</b>
10	Students should handout a 7-10 pages document: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The first 6-8 approved pages</li> <li>- 1 - 2 pages about methodology, data collection techniques and the data analysis tools</li> </ul>	
12	Students should handout: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 - 6 pages about the results of the study</li> </ul>	<b>Students should get an approval for their works</b>
14	<b>The First draft of the paper</b>	
15	<b>The Final draft</b>	

## Guidance of your Research Project Steps:

### **STEP 1: Selecting a topic**

Although the topic of the project will be of your choosing, the instructor must approve it. The topic may be derived from the seminar, your internship, the media, or may be an outgrowth of an issue considered previously in a term paper or class.

### **STEP 2: Developing a research proposal**

The research proposal has to include the introduction, the problem of the study and the importance of the study and the following statements might assist you

1. **The Problem:** What problem do you want to work on? Perhaps you are interested in a problem in the financial accounting and this is a very broad area so you need to move from a broad topic to a narrow one. Then ask your topic questions! What do you want to know about this topic? Can you ask five questions? To move from a topic to questions and then to a research problem, you need to try filling in the blanks:

- Topic: I am studying  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Question: so I want to find  
out \_\_\_\_\_
- what/why/how \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Significance: in order to  
help \_\_\_\_\_
- Application: so that readers can  
\_\_\_\_\_

One more suggestion for moving from a topic to a research problem: Create a working title for your research paper. You may change your title often as the semester progresses and as you get a deeper understanding of your problem.

2. **Your Hypothesis or questions:** What is your hypothesis about the problem? Do you have a guess about its causes? Do you have a guess about its effects? Hypotheses are specific statements or explanations about why or how certain things exist or change.

3. **The Importance of the Study:** Why you think that your

paper is good and how you encourage the others to read it?

**STEP 3: Read widely and deeply then write your literature review**

You should read widely and deeply as many as you can of the available sources about your research topic such as books, theses, published papers either hard or electronic so you can define clearly your variables and set a group of previous studies. At this stage as your supervisor I need to check your ability of writing a literature and to check your citations and documentations, I also need to see your list of Works Cited, your Bibliography, or your list of sources consulted.

**STEP 4: Do your research**

Start carrying out your research. Identify the appropriate tools. Collect the information, data, and evidence that you need to test your hypothesis. Summarize and restate your readings. Collect quotations, facts, figures, etc.

**STEP 5: writing a draft of your paper**

Do not forget to write your conclusion and your. In your conclusion, you should give ideas for further research on this topic in the future. The last thing to do is to write an abstract of your research project. "...an abstract... presents the main point and summarizes its support", which will be placed in your paper after the title page. This should be single-spaced and double indented and centered on the page.

**STEP 6: writing your final paper**

## SOURCES CONSULTED

### Works Cited (Books, Articles, and Internet Sites)

- Blinder, Alan S. and Janet L. Yellen. 2001. **The Fabulous Decade: Macroeconomic Lessons from the 1990s**. A Century Foundation Report. New York: The Century Foundation Press.
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- Grossman, Gene and Alan Krueger. 1995. Economic Growth and the Environment. **Quarterly Journal of Economics** 110, 353-77.
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- United Nations Development Program. 2000. **Human Development Report 2000. Human Rights and Human Development**. New York: Oxford University Press.
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