

Master Thesis Seminar: Global Strategic Management (247.055)
Summer Semester 2021

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Course Objectives

This seminar is specifically designed to support students writing their Master Thesis in the field of International Management within the “Master in Management” Degree Program. It replaces the seminar „Diplomandenseminar Internationales Management“ offered in previous semesters and is therefore also open for students writing their Diploma Thesis as part of the WIWI Diploma Degree Program.

Course Content and Structure

- Research design and research question(s)
- Literature review
- Academic writing
- Empirical research methods
- Plagiarism
- Presentation of selected aspects of the students’ thesis work (e.g. research question, status quo of the literature review, planned method) followed by plenary discussions.
- Final presentations of thesis work

The course design is very interactive and combines short inputs by the lecturer with plenary discussions and feedback to the students’ thesis work by the lecturer as well as by fellow students. In addition, students should be prepared to share their own thesis-writing experiences with their classmates.

The seminar has a blocked format, teaching language is English. Attendance is expected for the entirety of all course sessions. Students who do not attend 80% of the total class time will automatically receive a negative grade. If students have scheduling conflicts, they must notify the lecturer at least 24 hours in advance. Absences that are not communicated before the start of the session will not be excused. Consequently, any missed graded component in the respective session will result in a negative grade.

Entry requirements

This seminar is especially designed for students, whose thesis proposals are close to or have already been accepted by the Department of International Management. Therefore, proposals should be handed in by semester start at the latest (Oct 1 for the winter semester, March 1 for the summer semester). For details regarding application and proposal writing see the download document “Master/Diploma Thesis: Admission and Process” at the department’s website (www.jku.at/iim).

Grading

The main criteria for successful course completion are:

- Attendance and active participation
- Four preparatory assignments for different sessions
- Short (informal) presentations in class
- Final presentation of thesis work

Course Dates

| Session | Date | | Time | Topics |
|---------|--------|----------|---------------|---|
| 1 | Monday | March 15 | 10:15 – 11:45 | Seminar overview |
| 2 | Monday | March 22 | 10:15 – 13:30 | Research design & research questions |
| 3 | Monday | April 19 | 10:15 – 13:30 | Literature review, formal requirements & academic writing |
| 4 | Monday | May 10 | 10:15– 13:30 | Data collection & analysis, initial findings |
| 5 | Monday | June 21 | 10:15 – 13:30 | Presentations |

All classes will be held as Zoom sessions.

Literature

Course literature:

Bryman, Alan & Bell, Emma (2015). Business Research Methods, 4th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (or more recent edition)

Recommended:

American Psychological Association (2010). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition. Washington: APA.

American Psychological Association (2010). Concise Rules of APA Style, 6th edition. Washington: APA.

Discipline Rules

As an academic institution, the Department of International Management does not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism encompasses presenting as one's own the words, work, opinions, or factual information of someone else without giving that person credit, as well as borrowing the sequence of ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgement. All discovered instances will result in an immediate decrease in grade of the assignment or exam. In severe cases, this may result in a failing grade for the assignment or exam. In addition, there will be an automatic decrease in overall grade. Consequently, this may result in the failure of the course. In the case of group work, the consequences will be extended to the entire team. For details see our code of conduct at www.jku.at/iim.

Sustainability Policy

As a department that strives to promote environmental sustainability, we encourage you to consider the environment and refrain from printing the material provided on Moodle.