

## **Master Thesis Seminar: Global Strategic Management (247.055)**

Winter Semester 2023

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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.

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### **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.

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### **Entry requirements**

This seminar is especially designed for students, who aim to write their Master thesis with the Department of International Management. To be able to participate in the Master thesis seminar, the following requirements are in place.

## **Initial Concept and full proposal**

Students need to prepare an initial concept of 1-2 pages before the start of the semester – **15 September 2023**. The concept should outline their first ideas about a topic of their interest. This idea draft should briefly describe the topic, its relevancy for the field of international management, the purpose of the thesis as well as the intended way to approach this topic. Required pre-reading for this idea draft is Bryman & Bell 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> ed., chapter on “Planning a research project and formulating research questions” (available in “Downloads” at our website). The concepts must be handed in via moodle.

If the concept is deemed satisfactory, students may participate in the Master thesis seminar. If the concept is not accepted, students can apply again the following semester or decide to apply at another department at JKU.

A full proposal is then written throughout the semester and should be finalized at the latest by **31 January 2024**. 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](http://www.jku.at/iim)).

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## **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

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## **Course Dates**

<b>Session</b>	<b>Date</b>		<b>Time</b>	<b>Topics</b>
1	Monday	16.10.2023	10:15 – 11:45	Seminar overview
2	Monday	23.10.2023	10:15 – 13:30	Research design & research questions
3	Monday	06.11.2023	10:15– 13:30	Literature review, formal requirements & academic writing
4	Monday	20.11.2023	10:15– 13:30	Data collection & analysis, initial findings
5	Monday	22.01.2024	10:15 – 13:30	Presentations (TBC)

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## **Literature**

### Course literature:

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

### Recommended:

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

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

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## **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](http://www.jku.at/iim).

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## **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.