

COURSE OUTLINE



COURSE NAME: Dissertation in International Business	COURSE NO: INMA 535
TERM: Summer 2013	COURSE CREDITS: 6
INSTRUCTOR: TBD E-mail: Phone: Office:	INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS PER WEEK: 8

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

None.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The dissertation is an independent and original piece of work incorporating research, study and evaluation. It is the culmination of a successful graduate programme, demonstrating the student's ability to work independently. The dissertation may focus on any aspect of the International Management Graduate Diploma programme. Each student will be allocated a supervisor, who must finally approve the topic. In all cases, the research must demonstrate critical and independent thought. Each student will also be allocated a primary and secondary individual dissertation supervisor, whose roles will be to offer guidance and support during the dissertation process to ensure the learning objectives are achieved in each individual case.

REQUIRED TEXT and OTHER RESOURCES:

No required text. Students will use their resource materials from INMA 520 Graduate Research Methodology course. A dissertation handbook will be available to all students to act as a focus and guide for the dissertation process.

COURSE FORMAT:

Online course work as well as advisory review meetings with faculty on average of 8 hours per week, over a 15 week period.

The course website on Moodle will provide a detailed schedule of activities, deliverables and updates.

Students are REQUIRED to check the course web site on Moodle as well as his/her name@capilanou.ca email at least 3 times weekly as these are the primary vehicles for university correspondence between instructor and student. Course communication will not be sent to student personal emails.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

The aims of this course are to enable students to:

- carry out an independent and original piece of academic research on a specific topic related to international business;
- define an appropriate set of aims and objectives and carry them through to completion;
- devise and apply an appropriate methodology;
- underpin the research with an appropriate literature review;
- exercise critical analysis and judgment throughout, including in the literature review, the selection of relevant data, interpretation of findings and synthesis of conclusions;
- present the research as a report to a high quality professional standard, with appropriate, contents pages, executive summary, figures and tables, bibliography and appendices.

SPECIFIC STUDENT OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate competence in the following abilities and skills:

ABILITIES	OUTCOME	LEVELS*
COMMUNICATIONS	C1. communicate effectively in writing;	5
	C2. reference written work;	5
	C3. defend the work produced;	5
ANALYSIS AND DECISION-MAKING	A1. present a professional dissertation;	3->6
	A2. carry out a successful literature and data search;	3->6
	A3. use and apply appropriate methodologies and analytical tools;	3->6
	A4. understand the importance of a critical approach to research;	3->6
	A5. have an understanding of the relevance of the research topic to international business.	3->6
	A6. choose and define an appropriate topic for an international post graduate dissertation;	3->6
	A7. apply appropriate research techniques to analyse data and illustrate the research with appropriate figures and tables;	3->6
	A8. carry out the dissertation within the specified time frame and meet deadlines;	3->6
	A9. identify, and comment critically on, a relevant body of literature and demonstrate how this underpins the chosen research;	3->6
	A10. identify and justify an appropriate research methodology;	3->6
	A11. articulate a coherent argument that carries the research aims through to a conclusion;	3->6
	A12. critically evaluate alternative methods, theories and data in the context of a dynamic, complex and uncertain organisational environment;	3->6
	A13. reflect on their personal learning experience.	1->5
SOCIAL INTERACTION	S1. conduct work in an appropriate ethical manner;	1->5

	S2. manage a complex research strategy systematically and creatively;	1->5
	S3. work with a client and supervisor to choose and define an appropriate focus for the dissertations.	1->5
CITIZENSHIP, SUSTAINABILITY AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES	G1. consider the implications of their research within their chosen field and for their academic discipline.	4

See Faculty of Business – Our Commitment to Assessment and Constructive Feedback for description of the six “Levels” of Comprehension.

EVALUATION PROFILE:

The dissertation is an independent and original piece of work incorporating research, study and evaluation. It is the culmination of a successful international post graduate programme, demonstrating your ability to work independently. It is underpinned by a formal teaching programme of Research Methods offered in the first term of study.

The dissertation may focus on any aspect of the international post graduate business programme. Each student will be allocated a supervisor, who must finally approve the topic. In all cases, the research must demonstrate critical and independent thought.

A dissertation handbook will be available to all students to act as a focus and guide for the dissertation process. Each student will also be allocated two individual dissertation supervisors, one from Capilano University and one from Hertfordshire whose role will be to offer guidance and support during the dissertation process to ensure the learning objectives are achieved in each individual case.

Management of the research strategy, development and application of research techniques and skills are assessed both formatively and summatively. Formative assessment is undertaken by the supervisor through discussion with the student about their initial proposal form, and then discussion surrounding the maintenance of a 'dissertation log', which is signed by the supervisor and the student at each meeting as a record of progress and action.

This log and the research proposal must also be submitted with the dissertation. Together, these provide evidence upon which summative assessment is made of the management of the research strategy and skill and practice development. Other learning outcomes are assessed summarively through the dissertation document itself and the 'reflective chapter'.

More details are provided and detailed in the Postgraduate Dissertation Handbook.

Assessment	% of Final Grade	Individual	CAPabilities Assessed			
			Communications	Analysis & Decision Making	Social Interaction	Citizenship & Global Perspectives
The agreed research proposal (circa 2500 words). Research Plan and Ongoing Communication with Advisor	15%	I	5-6	4-6	5-6	4-6
Dissertation Log	5%	I	4-6	4-6	4-6	4-6
Written Dissertation (circa 15000 words excluding appendices) including a final chapter titled 'reflections'	80%	I	4-6	4-6	4-6	4-6
Total	100%	I	4-6	4-6	4-6	4-6

COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE:

This following weekly course outline is tentative and subject to change. Additional readings and homework will be assigned during the course and will be posted on the course web site. You are responsible for checking Moodle and your @capilanou.ca email on a regular basis. The instructor may be required to travel on university business, during these times classes will be conducted online.

Week	Topic	In-class or Assignments
Week 1	Project Definition & Research Proposal Development	Class discussion, see Moodle for readings
Week 2-3	Literature Review	Online discussion, see Moodle for readings
Week 4	Identification of a Conceptual Framework	Class discussion, see Moodle for readings
Week 5	Development of Hypotheses/ Research Questions	Class discussion, see Moodle for readings
Week 6-8	Desk/Secondary Research	Progress review meeting
Week 9	Data Collection	Independent work
Week 10	Analysis of Results	Independent work
Week 11-14	Development of Conclusions	Progress review meeting
Week 15	Suggestions for Future Research	Independent work

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

In addition to the policies of the university, the Faculty of Business has the following policies governing the management of our classes and curriculum.

FACULTY OF BUSINESS POLICIES

Attendance: Regular attendance and punctuality are both essential and expected due to the nature and format of the course materials.

Cheating and Plagiarism:

Cheating is an act of deceit, fraud, distortion of the truth, or improper use of another person's effort to obtain an academic advantage. Cheating includes permitting another person to use one's work as their own. Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's work or ideas as if they were one's own. Plagiarism is both dishonest and a rejection of the principles of scholarship. Information about how to avoid plagiarism by proper documentation of sources is available in the Library, the Writing Centre and is published in the University Calendar.

Penalties for Cheating and Plagiarism:

A grade of '0' for an examination, quiz or assignment or 'F' for the course may be assigned if cheating or plagiarism has taken place. First incidents deemed by the instructor to be particularly serious or second or subsequent incidents of cheating and plagiarism will be dealt with under the provisions of the University Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism (See the University Calendar). All students should familiarize themselves with the University Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism as such behaviour can result in suspension from the University.

Incomplete Grades:

Incomplete grades will not be given unless special arrangements have been made with the instructor prior to the date set by University Administration.

Professional Behaviour:

Students must demonstrate a professional attitude and behaviour toward work, fellow students and their instructors. Each student should demonstrate reliability, respect for and co-operation with colleagues. A willingness to work calmly and courteously under difficult conditions as well as a determination to achieve first-class work while meeting deadlines is necessary in the Business Faculty. Students should have respect for equipment and systems. Students should display a constructive response to criticism.

Copyright Policy:

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and abide by the University's Copyright Policy. The University's Copyright Policy is published in the University Calendar.

PROGRAM POLICIES – Capilano School of Business

In addition to the Capilano University and Faculty of Business policies, the Capilano School of Business has the following policies governing the management of our classes and curriculum.

Missed Exams and Quizzes:

Missed exams or quizzes will receive a grade of "0" unless PRIOR arrangements (wherever possible) are made with the instructor. Permission to make up an exam will only be given in extraordinary situations such as illness of the student or the death of a close family member. A doctor's certificate, or other proof supporting the reason for the absence, may be required.

English Usage: All assignments are marked for correct English usage, proofreading and formatting.

Grading Profile:

A+	90-100%	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D	50-59
A	85-89	B	73-76	C	63-66	F	Below 50%
A-	80-84	B-	70-72	C-	60-62		

COURSE LEVEL POLICIES:

In addition to Capilano University, Faculty of Business, and the Capilano School of Business policies, the following policies govern the management of this class and its curriculum.

Assignments: Homework assignments are due at the **start of class** on the due date unless otherwise advised by your instructor. Late assignments will only be accepted if prior approval for a late submission date has been given by the instructor.

Programmable Tools: Please note the use of programmable items such as calculators, dictionaries etc. is forbidden during tests, quizzes, and exams. Cell phones are not to be brought to any test, quiz, or exam.