Philadelphia University
Faculty of administration and finance sciences
Department of hotels and tourism management
first semester, academic year 2011-2012

	Course syllabus
Course title: Research Project	**Course code:** 381480
year level: 4	**Course prerequisite (s) and/or co- requisite (s)**
Lecture time: 3.10-4.00	**Credit hours: 3 hours**

		Academic Staff Specifics		
Name	**Rank**	**Office number and location**	**Office hours**	**E-mail address**
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Course module description:

The course attends to make student familiar with exploring and solving problems facing the hotels and tourism establishments. The unit will also allow students to use their knowledge that obtained from different scientific and specialized courses and utilize their knowledge in the different stages of preparing the project. The titles and the area of the study will depends mainly on the desire of the student, however he has to choose either the lodging or the catering industry. At the end of the course students have to present and talk about the methodology they used in preparing the project.

Course module objectives:

1. To develop an understanding of defining the problem and project objectives.
2. To develop the project plan.
3. Implementing the project plan, and interpreting and reporting the findings.

4. To gather preliminary information that will help define the problem and suggest hypotheses.

5. To test hypotheses about cause-and-effect relationships.

6. To developing research plan for collecting information.

Prerequisites
Course/ module components

Registered students in this module should pass at least 90 hours.

Prescribed Text

A minimum of ten references would be appropriate to express theoretical background of the subject. However students recommended to use as much as they can of scientific references available at the university library. They are also advised to implement a survey if the subject of the study and the hypothesis require that.

These links also contain guidance and tips on project and proposal writing.

The Claremont Graduate University Writing Center, Claremont, CA

Indiana University School of Education, Bloomington, IN

Prof. Chris M. Golde, Dept. of Educational Administration, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Project Proposal Workshop, Institute of International Studies, UC Berkley (with sample proposals)

DissPropWorkshop/ Guide to Writing Thesis and Project Proposals, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

A checklist for preparing your project

Part I. Introduction.

The first step is to summarize the broader concepts and issues related to your project in order to place your subject in broader context. Then, you must present

the main research question. My suggestion is to create a "Powerful Opening:" "Get straight to the point; do not drift around in some aimless way. The opening paragraph is your first salvo. You must have a way of encapsulating in a few sharp, snappy sentences what this project is about."

Part II. Problem Statement

In this section, define and present the issue in order to frame specific questions. This section builds on the context established in the introduction section. From here, the student must develop the rationale for the project by explaining the importance of the problem and the need to conduct research within the established context. Some questions you might consider:

Does the project deal with a significant and meaningful problem that lends itself to a substantial research effort?

Has a persuasive case been made as to why the problem is worth solving?

Will the findings provide a basis for generalized conclusions or have practical applicability?

Are the hypotheses, when applicable, well formulated and lucidly articulated?

Do they pose a relationship between or among measurable variables that is subject to testing?

Are the limitations of the study identified with recognition of their consequences?

Are technical terms well defined? Are the definitions clear-cut, unambiguous, and comprehensible?

Part III. Conceptual Framework.

Begin with the theoretical framework, and provide key constructs. Define specific terms and how you will use them, and then model what you think is going on. For example, if your topic is related to tourist behavior, you must establish a base of behavioral theory, , define all important terminology and which of the varying interpretations you will use, and ultimately, define in your terms precisely what behavior is and does.

Part IV. Methods

State clearly what you plan to do and why. Then discuss how your methods link to the conceptual framework and why. In other words, how does your progect methodology serve to answer your research questions.

Part V. Bibliography

Creating a bibliography is self-explanatory. Students should begin their bibliography as soon as they begin taking courses in order to catalogue works used throughout the breadth of their educational experience. Works reviewed early during the pursuit of the degree can propel a student into the works referenced within them. A bibliography should always be a work in progress as new information is published and other information becomes irrelevant as research questions change over time. Ultimately, it is easier to subtract those references not needed.

Part VI. Appendices

Appendices should be included as needed to support and define research as well as support the final project. Appendices will generally include surveys (including drafts), other research data (as required) and a timeline in order to manage the entire project t itself.

Allocation of Marks	
Assessment Instruments	**Mark**
Quoting and references used	**10**
Convenience of the title with the text	**10**
Conclusions and recommendations	**10**
Scientific significance and discussion	**60**
Total	**100**

Examination

Scheduled date and place
Your final presentation for this unit will be held during the scheduled examination period as indicated by supervisor.
Presentations will normally be scheduled Sunday to Thursday inclusive.
Presentations may be held during the day or evening and students should consult the supervisor information that will be made available towards the end of semester. You are advised to make any necessary arrangements with your supervisor for time off during presentation period. Your participation at the scheduled time is not negotiable unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Supplementary Examination
Except in special circumstances and on the recommendation of the lecturer-in-charge or the Head of the department, a student who fails will not be granted a supplementary examination.

Submission of Coursework
Extensions will only be granted on medical or compassionate grounds and will not be granted because of work or other commitments. Requests for extensions should be **made in writing** to the lecturer-in-charge **prior** to the due date.
Medical certificates or other evidence must be attached and must contain information which justifies the extension sought.

Attendance policy:

Absence from lectures and/or tutorials shall not exceed 15%. Students who exceed the 15% limit without a medical or emergency excuse acceptable to and approved by the Dean of the faculty shall not be allowed to take the final examination and shall receive a mark of zero for the course. If the excuse is approved by the Dean, the student shall be considered to have withdrawn from the course.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example downloading an essay from a cheat site, copying another student's project or using an author's words or ideas without citing the source. Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It is a University offence punishable by a range of penalties including a fine or eduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, exclusion from a unit, a course, or the University. **When in doubt consult your supervisor**. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline.