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|------------------------|---|
| Course name | Research Methods |
| Course code | ECSI 3201 |
| Lecturer/email address | Njeri Ngaruiya ngaruiyanjeri@tukenya.ac.ke |
| Time | |
| Day of the week | |

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Course objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, each student will be able to:

- Understand research terminology.
- Identify the types of methods best suited for investigating different types of problems and questions.
- Develop research questions that are based on and build upon a critical appraisal of existing research.
- Design a research proposal.
- Begin initial preparations for embarking on a new research project.

2. Course Content

Definition of Basic Research concepts. Research Tools. Identifying the research problem. Literature Review: Location and review of relevant information, References and Bibliographies, Issues of Plagiarism. Validity Concerns. Data collection methods: Interviews, Survey, Focus groups, Case studies, Observation, Archival method, Content analysis. Research design planning. Research proposal writing. Qualitative research. Historical research. Descriptive research. Experimental and Causal-Comparative designs. Writing and publishing the research report.

3. Detailed Course content

| Week | Topics |
|--------------|---|
| Week 1 | Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Research? • Application Areas of Research • Types of Research |
| Week 2 and 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulating Research Problem |
| Week 4 and 5 | Formulating A Research Problem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the literature • Formulating a research problem • Identifying variables • Constructing hypotheses |
| Week 5 | CAT ONE |
| Week 6 and 7 | Conceptualizing a Research Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The research designs • Selecting a study design Tools for writing Research Proposal and Research Articles |
| Week 8 | Data Collection Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selecting a method of data collection • Collecting data using attitudinal scales • Establishing the validity and reliability of a research instrument |
| Week 9 | Sampling Methods |
| Week 10 | Research Results Dissemination |
| | CAT TWO |
| Week 11 | Data Sharing, Backup and Archival Tools |
| Week 12 | Bibliography Management Tools Using Harvard and APA Styles |

| Week | Topics |
|------------|---|
| | Use of Zotero and Mendley for Automated Citations |
| | Plagiarism |
| Week 13-14 | Revision & Exams |

4. Teaching methodology

Classes will be conducted in form of lectures, discussions, business cases and presentations

NB: Teamwork and discussions are **highly** recommended.

5. Course text and recommended reading

- Kumar, R. (2011). Research Methodology: A step by Step for Beginners. 3rd Edition. Thousands Oaks: Sage Publication.
- Avison, D. and Pries-Heje, J. (2005). Research in Information Systems: A handbook for research supervisors and their students. St. Louis, MO: Elsevier Butterworth Heinemann.
- Crowther, D. and Lancaster, G. (2008). Research Methods. St. Louis, MO: Elsevier Butterworth Heinemann.
- Kaplan, B. and Truex, D.P. et. al (2004). Information Systems Research: Relevant Theory and Informed Practice (1sted.). New York: Springer-Verlag.

Further reading

- Myers, M.D. and Avison, D.E. (2002). Qualitative Research in Information Systems: A Reader (1sted.). Thousand Oaks, C.A.: SAGE.
- Whitman, M.E. and Woszczynski, A.B. (2003). The Handbook of Information Systems Research. Hershey, PA: IGI Global.

6. Course evaluation

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|------------------------|-------------|
| Final Examination | 70% |
| CAT | 20% |
| GroupWork & Assignment | 10% |
| Total | 100% |

7. Ground rules

- Punctuality
- Switch off or put your Mobile phone in vibration mode. Excuse yourself to pick the phone outside class
- Communication in case you will not make it to class
- Your work **MUST** be your own
 - Zero tolerance for cheating/plagiarism
 - Discussing the problem is encouraged
- Homework/Assignment/Exams:
 - Penalty for late assignments
 - CATS** and **EXAMS** will be conducted on the respective dates set. There will be no **MAKEUP CATS** unless for very genuine reasons.