

<b>DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: FN 4980 DISSERTATION IN FINANCE</b>	
(Fall 2021)	<b>UK LEVEL: 6</b> <b>UK CREDITS: 30</b> <b>US CREDITS: 6/0/6</b>
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	EC1000 Principles of Microeconomics EC 1101 Principles of Macroeconomics MA 1008 College Algebra AF 2007 Financial Accounting MA 2021 Applied Statistics FN 2128 Principle of Finance FN/EC 3046 Investment Analysis and Management I FN 3213 Corporate Finance FN 3437 Financial Econometrics I
<b>CATALOG DESCRIPTION:</b>	An independent piece of work on a theme aligned with the focus of the finance programme. Each student works directly with a faculty supervisor.
<b>RATIONALE:</b>	The dissertation aims at helping students develop effective research skills through literature review, data collection, quantitative and/or qualitative analysis, and conclusions. By undertaking the dissertation students develop a deep understanding of the use of theoretical and empirical literature for the identification of a research question and selection of a suitable research design for the collection and analysis of data. Students conduct critical evaluation of the relative strengths and weaknesses of the research methods in the light of which their findings need to be understood and presented.
<b>LEARNING OUTCOMES:</b>	Upon successfully completing a dissertation, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Organize a piece of independent research using pertinent research methods and analytical techniques.</li> <li>2. Assess the literature relating to a specific topic and conduct an effective synthesis and critical review of that literature.</li> <li>3. Identify research questions, formulate them into specific research aims, objectives, and/or testable hypotheses, and relate them to the existing relevant literature.</li> <li>4. Collect data and use appropriate quantitative and/or qualitative methods to provide relevant evidence and reach relevant conclusions</li> <li>5. Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the selected research design as it has been applied on the research project.</li> <li>6. Evaluate the findings and their implications for theory and practice, and summarize main contributions while generalizing on inferences for future research.</li> </ol>
<b>METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:</b>	In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The course is delivered over two consecutive terms.</li> <li>➤ Faculty supervision: Students receive up to 3 hours per week of individual supervision time in the form of individual meetings and online support in order to engage in the relevant stages of preparation.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Use of Blackboard, where the supervisor posts relevant materials.</li> <li>➤ Use of the Simulated Trading Room for data collection and analysis.</li> </ul>		
<b>ASSESSMENT:</b>	<p><b>Summative:</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Individual research project comprising literature review, analysis and research findings (9,500-10,000 words) - 90% Presentation - 10%</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;"><b>100%</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>The dissertation assesses Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.</p> <p>All human research related activities must comply with the American College of Greece (ACG) Institutional Review Board (IRB) policies and procedures. If the field research of the dissertation involves human subjects, students are required to submit a proposal to the ad hoc Ethics Committee of the School of Business and Economics. The proposal must comply with the guidelines provided by the IRB. The proposal must be approved by the supervisor before it is submitted to the ad hoc Ethics Committee of the School of Business and Economics.</p> <p>Students are required to resit failed assessments in this module.</p>	Individual research project comprising literature review, analysis and research findings (9,500-10,000 words) - 90% Presentation - 10%	<b>100%</b>
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<b>INDICATIVE READING:</b>	<p><b>REQUIRED READING:</b></p> <p>Peter Levin. <i>Excellent Dissertations</i>. Open University Press. McGraw-Hill Education. 2nd Edition.</p> <p>Readings, accessible through the Library, assigned by the supervisor as appropriate.</p>		
<b>INDICATIVE MATERIAL:</b> (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)	<p><b>REQUIRED MATERIAL:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED MATERIAL:</b> N/A</p>		
<b>COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:</b>	Use of appropriate academic conventions as applicable in oral and written communications.		
<b>SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:</b>	Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Refinitiv, Bloomberg, Statistical software (e.g. Eviews, STATA)		
<b>WWW RESOURCES:</b>	Assigned by the supervisor as appropriate.		
<b>INDICATIVE CONTENT:</b>	Supervision in the form of individual and online sessions at each stage of the research project. Advice on planning, time management, and ethical issues in research.		

Broad topics in Finance and/or Finance-related areas in congruence with the research field of the supervising instructor are made available to students. During the first four weeks, students should select their topic and formulate their research question in collaboration with the supervising instructor.

Indicative module delivery:

- Fall Semester
  - Weeks 1- 4: Instructions for the preparation of the dissertation (common for all students registered in the module)
  - Weeks 4-8: Literature Review
  - Weeks 8-12: Data collection and Methodology
  
- Spring Semester
  - Weeks 1-4: Empirical Analysis
  - Weeks 4-6: Robustness Checks
  - Weeks 6-8: Critical Discussion of the Empirical Results and their connection to the literature
  - Weeks 8-10: Write up of the Introduction and Conclusions
  - Weeks 10-11: Final review of the dissertation, submission
  - Week 12: Oral presentation