DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: SM 4747 DISSERTATION IN SPORTS MANAGEMENT	
(Updated Fall 2021)	**UK LEVEL: 6** **UK CREDITS: 30** **US CREDITS 6/0/6**
PREREQUISITES:	BU 3233 Business Research Methods Plus any four Level 6 courses in the Sports Management Program
CATALOG DESCRIPTION:	This course offers graduating sports management students the opportunity to conduct an extended piece of empirical research in an area and topic of their interest. Students select an original project topic involving literature research and extensive reading, planning, conducting, data analysis and producing a written research report to publication standards.
RATIONALE:	This course aims at preparing the students to carry out successfully their dissertation project in a sports management-related area and topic of their choice. Students select an original project topic and examine it through literature research and primary data collection and analysis based on a coherent research proposal and plan.
LEARNING OUTCOMES:	As a result of taking this module, the student should be able to: 1. Formulate an accurate description of a research project with reference to specific research aims, rationale, approach, relevant theory frameworks, etc. 2. Critically discuss the findings of related previous research and create a theoretical framework underpinning their investigation. 3. Critically evaluate different methodological approaches towards collecting and analysing primary data in the context of their investigation. 4. Methodically formulate conclusions that follow from their research that identify implications for sports management and/or policy.

METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:	In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used:
	
	➢ Research tutorials: students will work with an allocated supervisor on identifying a suitable topic and developing a detailed research proposal for addressing their defined research objectives. One-to-one meetings will ensure that each student receives specific, practical and usable advice on their chosen topic during various stages of their investigation, including their fieldwork preparation, data analysis and presentation, etc.
	➢ Information sessions: a number of common meetings will be held with all students and supervisors involved in the module during each academic year. These sessions will cover aspects such as dissertation topic selection, devising a dissertation proposal, time-planning for specific deadlines and deliverables, research ethics committee approval and topic approval procedures, learning resources, referencing, etc. Although largely advisory in nature, some of the above meetings will form obligatory checkpoints during the module for the purpose of monitoring student progress.
	➢ Dissertation Handbook: students enrolled in the dissertation module in either programme will receive a dedicated Dissertation Handbook, which will include detailed information on the following aspects:
	   - Introduction to the dissertation module (emphasis on learning outcomes, expectations, skills development, time management and planning, etc.)
	   - Dissertation content and structure (guidelines on topic selection, methodological decisions, primary and secondary data collection

	processes, policies on research ethics and related approval procedures) - Dissertation supervision and support (details on supervisor allocation process, workshop sessions, supervision meetings, the responsibilities of students and supervisors, available resources, etc.) - Dissertation presentation, submission and assessment (guidelines on dissertation organisation, layout and presentation, marking criteria, deadlines, resit opportunities, etc.) ➢ Students will be required to complete an extensive individual written dissertation employing primary as well as secondary data collection and analysis. The subject of the project must directly relate to an area of tourism and hospitality management and policy of the student's choice, and be researched in the context of specific theory frameworks and employing a sound and purposeful methodological approach. ➢ All human research related activities must comply with the ACG Institutional Review Board (IRB) policies and procedures. If the field research of the dissertation involves human subjects, students are required to submit (upon approval by their allocated supervisor) 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. ➢ Office hours: students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their supervisor, where they can discuss their topic, receive advice on aspects of their work, ask questions, go through draft chapters, etc. ➢ Use of Blackboard, where instructors post useful links, templates, examples, instructions, timely announcements, etc.
ASSESSMENT:	**Summative:** | **Final Assessment**: Presentation of major research project. Individual	**10%**
Final assessment: Major research project. Individual, 7200-8800 words	**90%** | Both assessments test all Learning Outcomes (1, 2, 3 & 4). Students are required to resit failed assessments in this module.
INDICATIVE READING LIST:	**REQUIRED MATERIAL: N/A** **RECOMMENDED READING:** **A. BOOKS** • American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American psychological association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. • Damon, A., Pedersen, P. & McEvoy, C. (2011) *Research Methods and Design in Sport Management*. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics. • Edwards, A. & Skinner, J. (2009) *Qualitative Research in Sport Management*. Oxford, UK: Butterworth-Heinemann. • Field, A. (2013) *Discovering Statistics using SPSS* (4rd ed.). London, UK: Sage Publications. • Gratton, C. & Jones, I. (2010) *Research Methods for Sports Studies*. London, UK: Routledge. • Pallant, J. (2016). *SPSS Survival Manual* (6th ed.). Berkshire, UK: Open University Press. • Levin, P. (2011) *Excellent Dissertations* (2nd ed.). Berkshire, UK: Open University Press.

COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:	Use of appropriate academic conventions as applicable in oral and written communications.
SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:	NVivo, SPSS
WWW RESOURCES:	Students are expected to use the internet at their own discretion to select information on the project. Useful sources include: https://library.acg.edu/welcome https://www.apastyle.org/ www.wadsworth.com owl.english.purdue.edu methods.fullerton.edu/appa.html http://ec.europa.eu/sport/news/20120703-eu-xg-gg-rpt_en.htm http://www.olympic.org/ www.uefa.com http://www.uci.ch
INDICATIVE CONTENT:	Supervision in the form of individual sessions to discuss the various stages of the project.