

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Research Methods</b>			
<b>Course Code</b>	<b>MLSM 506</b>			
<b>Course Type</b>	<b>Required</b>			
<b>Level</b>	<b>MA/LLM (Level 2)</b>			
<b>Year / Semester</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Year / 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester</b>			
<b>Teacher's Name</b>	<b>Assist. Prof. Elena Ketteni, Dr Maria Avtzaki</b>			
<b>ECTS</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Lectures / week</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Laboratories / week</b> <b>NONE</b>
<b>Course Purpose</b>	<p>Students will be informed about contemporary research issues concerning Maritime Law, International Trade and Shipping Management and Shipping Economics, on an international and local level. They will become familiar with a variety of research methods through studying examples of research projects and scientific papers relating to Law and applied business research.</p> <p>Students will acquire experience about effective research implementation processes, methods, and results dissemination. They will be presented with opportunities for developing their own research questions and methodological designs which will lead to the elaboration of their Master's Thesis.</p>			
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>By the end of the course, the students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop specific project ideas and comment about the current research activity and methodological approaches in maritime law, international economics, international trade, and the shipping industry;</li> <li>• Raise research questions and be able to draw from the educational research principles in order to develop research designs and methodologies suitable for investigating legal and business policy issues;</li> <li>• Consider the methodological and ethical issues involved in conducting qualitative empirical legal and business research;</li> <li>• Develop their own, research questions and methodological designs as well as implement their own small scale research project which will lead finally to the elaboration of their Master's Thesis.</li> </ul>			
<b>Prerequisites</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>Corequisites</b>	<b>NONE</b>	
<b>Course Content</b>	<p>Indicative Course Content</p> <p><b>Nature of Business and Legal Research – Research Topic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand and define the features of Legal and Business</li> </ul>			

research.

- Obtain a clear understanding of the different characteristics of research.
- Identify and evaluate the different attributes of a good research topic.
- Analyse and apply the different techniques of generating research ideas
- Demonstrate how research ideas can be refined.
- Consider different ways of writing a research question or a hypothesis.
- Comprehend the importance of theory in writing research questions and hypothesis. Understand the nature of data.

### **Critically Reviewing the Literature**

- Demonstrate awareness of current state of knowledge and identify how research fits in the wider context.
- Evaluate research done by other authors in a subject area
- Explore ways of approaching legal texts and field research sites
- Develop research questions and objectives finding research opportunities not done until now.
- Discover and consider research approaches, strategies and techniques appropriate.
- Highlight the issues where work will provide new insights demonstrating linkage to research question and objectives.
- Consider all different types of sources available
- Understand how literature needs to be properly referenced.

### **Research Strategy and Design**

- Understand the dichotomy between primary and secondary research
- Understand the different objectives of engaging in Doctrinal/Theoretical or “Blackletter” legal research as well as Business research based on analysis of secondary data.
- Understand the different objectives of engaging in non-Doctrinal/Socio-legal/ Empirical research as well as Applied Business research based on primary data collection.
- Investigate the specific methodologies for Doctrinal vs. Non-Doctrinal research as well as Business research based on primary and non-primary data collection.
- Identifying when each strategy would be appropriate to use and how to choose a method.
- Explain the process that has to be followed when doing research using specific methods.
- Analyse quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods research tools.
- Evaluate the strategies considering related benefits, difficulties, and issues the researcher should take into consideration when using each method and tool.
- Be able to discuss the ethical dimensions of a research inquiry.

**Issues in Legal and Business Research using primary data collection**

- Assess the various problems a researcher is likely to face associated with gaining access to the source.
- Design strategies to gain access and to overcome organizational concerns about the granting of access.
- Identify and evaluate the different types of tools used to collect data.
- Analyse the specificities of conducting qualitative research: the interview.
- Understand the concept of sampling, validity and piloting.

### **Analysing Qualitative data for Empirical Legal and Business Research**

- Identify the activities involved when analysing data.
- Evaluate the usefulness of each activity.
- Understand all steps leading to a complete data analysis process.

### **Introduction to Quantitative Research**

- Understand the concept of quantitative research and be able to separate it from qualitative research.
- Learn about the major methods used for quantitative research, and be able to explain and compare them (advantages and disadvantages for each method).
- Become aware of the major elements of quantitative research such as variables, unit of analysis and sampling.
- Understand how to report quantitative data and findings.

### **Collection of Quantitative Data**

- Develop skills on how to use online databases from various organizations in order to obtain data for an analysis.
- Become familiar with the questionnaire techniques available and when it is appropriate to use a questionnaire.
- Understand the use of the questionnaire.
- Develop skills on how to design a questionnaire for a research analysis.
- Learn important information needed when one wants to use a questionnaire for a quantitative research analysis.

### **Analysis of Quantitative Data**

- Learn how to import data in the excel package to create correct spread sheets for the analysis of any data.
- Analysis of questionnaire data.
- Describe various variables using graphs – graphical analysis.
- Summarise data using basic statistics – descriptive analysis.
- Examine relationships between two variables using graphs and statistics.
- Understand the concept of significance.

### **Simple Regression Analysis for Quantitative Data**

- Introduced to the concept of using a statistical method.
- Learn about Simple Regression analysis.
- Obtain the results from the application of the analysis.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the results from regression estimation analysis.</li> <li>• Apply the method in excel using real actual data.</li> </ul> <p><b>Multiple Regression Analysis for Quantitative Data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the multiple regression analysis frameworks.</li> <li>• Estimate the multiple regression analysis models and obtain the results.</li> <li>• Explain the results from the model with respect to significance and coefficients.</li> <li>• Calculate various effects form one variable (or more) to another.</li> <li>• Construct predictions of the dependent variables.</li> <li>• Introduced to the concept of hypothesis testing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Multiple Regression Analysis: Extensions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find effects and explain when the unit of measurement of one or more variables change.</li> <li>• Estimate and explain multiple regression relationships in the form of logarithms and growth rates.</li> <li>• Understand and apply the concept of nonlinearity.</li> <li>• Estimate in excel nonlinear models and explain their results.</li> <li>• Become familiar with the dummy variables properties.</li> <li>• Use dummy variables in regressions and evaluate the results.</li> </ul>
Teaching Methodology	Lectures, discussions, oral presentations, feedback based on the evaluation of the research project submitted. Students will be able to use the computer labs while producing their project, and will have access to statistical analysis packages so as to become familiar with quantitative data processing.
Bibliography	<p><u>Textbooks:</u></p> <p>Cahillane, L., Schweppe, J. (2016). Legal Research Methods: Principles and Practicalities. Clarous Press.</p> <p>Bast, C.M., Hawkins, M. (2010). Foundations of Legal Research and Writing. DELMAR GENGAGE Learning (e-book. University of Frederick</p> <p><u>References:</u></p> <p>Salter M., Mason, J. (2007). Writing Law Dissertations: An Introduction and Guide to the Conduct of Legal Research. Longman (e-book, University of Frederick).</p> <p>Cane, P., Kritzer, H. (2010). The Oxford Handbook of Empirical Legal Research. Oxford Univeristy Press. (e-book, University of Frederick).</p> <p>Cooper, D. and Schindler P. (2014) Business Research Methods. 12th edition. McGraw Hill Higher Education.</p> <p>Herskowitz, S., Duggan, J.E. (2005). Legal Research made Easy. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. SPHINX Publishing.</p> <p>Seidman, I., (2012). Interviewing as Qualitative Research: A Guide for</p>

	<p>Researchers in Education and the Social Sciences, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Teachers College Press.</p> <p>Cohen, L., Manion, L., Morrison K. (2011). Research Methods in Education. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. London: Routledge.</p> <p>Creswell, J.W. (2013). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches. 4th Ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.</p> <p>SilveScherbaum, A., C, and Shockley, M.K. (2015). Analyzing Quantitative Data for Business and Management Students. Sage Publications.</p> <p>Sekaran, U. and Roger B. (2011). Research Methods for Business: A skill Building Approach, 5th edition, Wiley.</p> <p>Beggam,John (2011) Succeeding with Your Master's Dissertation: A Step-by-step Handbook. Open University Press. (e-book, University of Frederick).</p>
Assessment	<p>Assignment 40% (30% presentation / 70 % written project) / <b>Qualitative methods</b></p> <p>Final exam 60% / <b>Quantitative methods</b></p>
Language	English