

MVA501 – Research Methods

Course Title	Research Methods				
Course Code	MVA501				
Course Type	Required				
Level	Master (2nd Cycle)				
Year / Semester	1 (1 st semester)				
Teacher's Name	Costas Mantzalos				
ECTS	10	Lectures / week	4	Laboratories / week	-
Course Purpose and Objectives	<p>Aim of the course and core objectives are:</p> <p>Develop general awareness of research methods and methodologies relevant to postgraduate level.</p> <p>Demonstrate critical thinking and analysis skills in a reflective approach to learning, research and design.</p> <p>Understand the context (historical, social, cultural, corporate) of the topic and areas of study through a literature review.</p> <p>Master an ability to propose a coherent and feasible research plan appropriate to the research question.</p> <p>Address the principles of design research, the different types of research methods and the development of new design knowledge.</p>				
Learning Outcomes	<p>Students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify their central research question (CRQ) • Situate their research question in the relevant literature(s) • Formulate a theoretically-interesting argument • Select an appropriate method or methods best suited for addressing the CRQ • Apply the method(s) to the students' research project • Identify the relevant “universe” of cases and units of analysis (UOA) 				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the empirical support for the students' argument • Prepare an executable research plan <p>The Research Tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and conduct an interview in order to collect information during the research process • Utilize, prepare and implement techniques for the exploratory and the standardised interview • Prepare and conduct interviews through the distribution of Questionnaires in order to collect information during the research process • Understand and evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the open and closed questions, wording of questions and the dos and don'ts of questionnaires <p>The Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate and initiate a self derived research project • Formulate a research project proposal 		
Prerequisites	-	Required	-
Course Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to research. Proposal Format Handout. What is research? Mapping our ideas: Research Topic. Research questions and goals. Ideas for a small pilot study/questions/goals. Pilot study format discussion. The Art of Writing a Proposal • Defining types of research: Qualitative, Quantitative and mixed methods. Interviewing and Survey Research. Methods, Design & Supporting Literature. Ethics/irbs and validity. • Case study and action research. Archival Research. Art practice as research. Editing and crossing off Extract abstract. Discussion and analysis of recent research projects. Discussion and analysis of Pilot Study Draft issues. Critical and analytical competencies appropriate to postgraduate level study, enabling self organisation, project management and communication skills • Creative research. MA Proposal Formulation, Presentation and Submission. Discourse and Network Analysis. Analyzing Data and Writing up Results. Establishment of techniques of research and enquiry to create and interpret knowledge. Range of methods and skills appropriate to both art and design research and art and design practice 		
Teaching Methodology	<p>This course includes lectures addressing the principles of design research, the different types of research methods and the development of new design knowledge. Additionally there are seminars to support the development of practical research skills. An art and design project will be the vehicle for the student to apply their knowledge and understanding of research principles into practice. In negotiation with the tutor, students will agree a suitable research question related to the project and they will then be expected to develop an appropriate research proposal. This will be supported throughout the module by lectures, seminars and group tutorials.</p>		

Bibliography	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Laurel, B (Ed)., Design Research: Methods and Perspectives. Cambridge MA, MIT Press, 2003 2. Cooper and Press, The Design Experience, the role of design and designers in the 21st Century, Ashgate, 2003 3. Karen Holtzblatt, Jessamyn Burns Wendell, Shelley Wood, Rapid Contextual Design: A How-to Guide to Key Techniques for User-Centered Design, Morgan Kaufmann Publishers 2004. 4. Lidwell, W et al, Universal Principles of Design. Rockport Publishers, 2003 5. Wisker, Gina, the postgraduate research handbook: succeed with your MA, MPhil, EdD and PhD, Palgrave Macmillan, 2008 6. Koskinen, Ilpo et.al Design Research Through Practice: From The Lab, Field, and Showroom. Elsevier. 2011
Assessment	<p>The Assessment methodology, which is mainly employed in this course and generally in the program is the one that is intended for learning. This is a continuous array of assessments used to help students learn. Additionally, periodic assessments is also used to verify that they did, in fact, meet prescribed academic achievement standards. Assessment, which is continuous and relies primarily in process is used far more than merely a source of evidence for grading, but also to build student confidence, motivation, and engagement in their learning. In other words, assessment isn't merely an index of the amount learned—it can also be the reason of that learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA Project Proposal: 40% • Pilot/Case Study: 10% • Readings Reflections: 20% • Annotated Bibliography APA style: 10% • Class Participation/activities: 10% • Presentation: 10% <p>Total: 100%</p>
Language	ENGLISH