



Fatih University
Faculty of Economics
Department of Economics and Administrative Sciences
Course Information for Research Writing in Economics.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Presented
in slides

Course Code: **ECON 297**. Course Name: **Research Writing in Economics**.

The course is aimed at equipping the students with the necessary skill to undertake a rigorous and credible essential research on economic topics related to the Turkish economy. To reach this aim the course introduces different methodologies and methods available for the completion of such research. We focus on research technology based rather on empirical than purely theoretical work - that is, on gathering primary data - as opposed to library projects which rely on already existing data. The merit of this course for the students is that they pass professional training of the whole technology of research, starting from data collection and ending with presenting the outcome of their work in theoretical and practical ways.

Course Objectives: 1. The objectives of the course are as follows:

- to outline what is expected of you with regard to the production of high quality research in your own business;
- to give you guidance on how to access literature and compile a literature review;
- to equip you with a basic understanding of the philosophies of applied economic and social research, so that you can select one which is most appropriate to your needs.,
- to allow you to identify the different research methods available (as well as their strengths and weaknesses), and to help you select an appropriate method for your future business needs,
- to give you guidance on designing a research schedule based on your chosen method and on the selection of an appropriate sample, in order to enable you to answer the research questions which you want to address in your business plans;
- to give you guidance on gaining access to organizations, and on designing a research plan;
- to enable you to identify the skills and techniques required when engaged in different types of research and to be aware of ethical issues when conducting research in organizations;
- to equip you with an understanding of how to analyse and present different kinds of data effectively;
- to introduce you to the ways in which research is used within non-educational organizations as well as in the academic field; and
- to give you a brief overview of 'cutting edge' research in various business disciplines.

However, this unit is NOT intended to provide you with everything that you need to know about the role of research in your academic studies, or the role of research in the wider world of work, It is important, therefore, that you try to keep up with the reading and preparation required during this unit, as well as devoting a considerable amount of time to reading around specific issues which are relevant to your future personal development, both as future businessmen or academic researchers.

The teaching is student oriented. It means every student has individual homeworks and individual examinations (tests, quizzes, exams).

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the unit students should be able to:

1. Apply in creative manner the modern research methods to solve some practical tasks.
2. Critically evaluate some of the basic research methods applied in theoretical and practical works.
3. Create own methodology how to organize research on topics of the existing problems related to the real life research and business activity.

Prerequisites:

A relatively good knowledge of mathematics (statistics) is required. If the level of mathematics is not as required special classes are to be organized to discuss the basic mathematics necessary for the successful completion of this course.

Special Requirements: We work in a team and for this reason the class attendance is very important. It explains why I give 20% for participation.

Teaching Method:

This course has been prepared for the second-year students in the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences of Fatih University. It includes 42 academic hours divided into 14 discussion lectures and final exam. Every lecture includes 3 academic hours 50 minutes each.

Remember that the best training you receive within the discussions during the lectures. Regular attendance thus is the best way to reach high results on the exam.

To be successful in the courses I teach I recommend you the following rules:

1. Attend regularly the lectures and try to make detailed notes. If for some reasons you could not attend a lecture, try to get the notes of your friends. Before the final exam you have to show me your notes. They are part of evaluation of your participation (see the grading policy). Their quality may be important in border cases.
2. If you do not understand some parts of the lecture, please contact me during the office hours (see below). For students with poor English I provide detailed explanations by request in forms of handouts on disk. Come to me always with diskette or disk. You may have some interesting materials to help you in your study.
3. If you have problems with understanding my written explanations, we could discuss the problems during my office hours.

Unit arrangements

The program includes weekly lecturing and corresponding discussions. They are intended to be as interactive as possible. The unit will be based on a mixture of 'formal' input from staff in the form of lectures, and experiential learning in the form of group discussions and exercises.

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Alexi Danchev, Ph.D.

Office: Room F-605, **E-mail:** adanchev@fatih.edu.tr

Office Hours: Monday: 12:00-13:00, Wednesday: 13:00-14:00

Teaching Assistant: , **Office:** F, E-mail:

Office Hours:

II. COURSE CONTENT

The lectures will introduce the key concepts and issues from an economic viewpoint, and then proceed to set out the proposed solutions in the context of policy making.

Weeks	Part One. Project proposal.
1	<p>PROBLEM 1. INTRODUCTION.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our joint work during the semester. 2. Philosophies of research in the social sciences <p>Core reading: Saunders M. et al, Research Methods for Business Students, 3/e, chapter 1, pp. 2 – 11;</p>
2	<p>PROBLEM 2. WRITING AND PRESENTING YOUR PROJECT REPORT.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Structuring project report. Organizing the project report content. 2. Developing appropriate writing style. Meeting the assessment criteria. 3. Oral presentation of the report. Mastery of preparing PowerPoint slides. <p>Core reading: Saunders M. et al, Research Methods for Business Students, 3/e, chapter 13, pp. 435 – 438.</p>
3	<p>PROBLEM 3. FORMULATING THE RESEARCH TOPIC.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attributes of a good research topic. Generating and refining research ideas. 2. Turning research ideas into research projects. 3. Writing your research proposal. <p>Students' tasks: to formulate their topic, key words, JEL and abstract.</p> <p>Core reading: Saunders M. et al, Research Methods for Business Students, 3/e, chapter 2, pp. 13 – 38.</p>
4.	<p>PROBLEM 4. ACCESSING AND REVIEWING THE LITERATURE.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The preliminary search and critical review. Literature sources available: primary, secondary and tertiary. 2. Planning the literature search. Conducting a literature search. Obtaining and evaluating the literature. Recording and correct citation of the literature. Basic styles of citation. <p>Students' tasks: to formulate basic goals and objectives of the project.</p> <p>Core reading: Saunders M. et al, Research Methods for Business Students, 3/e, chapter 3, pp. 43 – 73.</p>
5	<p>PROBLEM 5. RESEARCH STRATEGY.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Differing approaches to research. The need for a clear research strategy. 2. Multi-method approaches. The credibility of research findings. The ethics of research design <p>Core reading: Saunders M. et al, Research Methods for Business Students, 3/e, chapter 4, pp. 82 – 105.</p>
6	<p>PROBLEM 6. METHODOLOGY AND METHODS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Methodology and methods. Analyzing data qualitatively and quantitatively. 2. Basic methodology applied in research. 3. Basic methods used to realize methodology. <p>Core reading: Saunders M. et al, Research Methods for Business Students, 4/e, chapter 12, pp. 406 – 466; chapter 13, pp. 470 - 515.</p>
7	<p>PROBLEM 7. PRESENTATIONS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Features of the good presentation. 2. Using PowerPoint to prepare presentations. 3. Multimedia in presentations.

	<p>Core reading: Saunders M. et al, Research Methods for Business Students, 4/e, chapter 12, pp. 406 – 466; chapter 13, pp. 470 - 515.</p>
	<p>Part Two. Collecting data.</p>
8	<p>PROBLEM 8. INTERVIEWING. 1. Basic types of interview and their link with the research strategy. 2. Data quality issues and how to overcome them. 3. Logistic and resources issues. Semi-structured and in-depth interviews. Core reading: Saunders M. et al, Research Methods for Business Students, 3/e, chapter 9, pp. 243 – 272.</p>
9	<p>PROBLEM 9. QUESTIONNAIRE CONSTRUCTING. 1. Questionnaire technique: basic principles. 2. Designing the questionnaire. 3. Administering the questionnaire. Core reading: Saunders M. et al, Research Methods for Business Students, 3/e, chapter 10, pp. 280 – 315.</p>
10	<p>PROBLEM 10. RESEARCH ETHICS. 1. Negotiating access to research data. 2. Strategies to gain access. 3. Practical value of the research. The stakeholders of the project. Core reading: Saunders M. et al, Research Methods for Business Students, 3/e, chapter 5, pp. 113 – 143.</p>
11	<p>PROBLEM 11. PRIMARY DATA. 1. Participant observations.: data collection and analysis. 2. Structured observations: data collection and analysis. 3. Evaluation appropriateness of observation. Core reading: Saunders M. et al, Research Methods for Business Students, 3/e, chapter 8, pp. 221 – 238.</p>
12	<p>PROBLEM 12. SAMPLING. 1. Probability sampling. 2. Non-probability sampling. Core reading: Saunders M. et al, Research Methods for Business Students, 3/e, chapter 6, pp. 150 – 177.</p>
13	<p>PROBLEM 13. SECONDARY DATA. 1. Types of secondary data and their uses in research. 2. Locating secondary data. 3. Advantages and disadvantages of secondary data. Core reading: Saunders M. et al, Research Methods for Business Students, 3/e, chapter 7, pp. 188 – 212.</p>
	<p>STUDENTS PRESENTATIONS.</p>
	<p><u>Final exam</u></p>

III. EXAM DATES, GRADING POLICY AND ATTENDANCE

Exam Dates

Midterm Exam: To be announced additionally.

Final Exams: To be announced additionally.

Grading Policy

The final results are composed in the following way:

Kind of work	% share
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	total
<u>1. Designing self-administered questionnaire.</u>	10%
<u>2. Designing research project proposal.</u>	30%
<u>3. Presentation of the research project.</u>	20%
<u>4. Participation.</u>	20%
<u>4. Final exam.</u>	20%

This grading policy gives chance to all students to reach the highest results they wish, depending on their motivations. It is composed of the following kinds of work:

Assessments.

You are required to submit TWO assignments:

1. Self-administered questionnaire.
2. Research proposal, which should form the provisional basis of your concrete business or academic research interests.

Both assignments should be word processed or typed – and please use standard type face – for example Courier, Times New Roman or Arial. Please also submit both assignments in a secure binder of some kind.

With regard to deadlines, if you are experiencing difficulty with either assignment, or think you might not be able to meet the deadlines, please contact me in due time to explain the difficulties you are having IN PLENTY OF TIME. Extensions will NOT be given except in the presence of extenuating circumstances.

Assignment 1. Designing a self-administered questionnaire.

This represents 10% of the final results. assessment in this unit.

The topic for this questionnaire is regarded as a part of your project proposal and should be related to it.

The typical, but not necessary structure of the questionnaire could be:

- I. **General Information** – you present yourself, your organization and the aims of your project.
- II. **Positive part** – explaining the problem of concern to the respondent.
- III. **Core part** – collection of basic information – WTP, attitude to the problems, etc.
- IV. **Normative part** – your proposal to solve the problem, attitude of respondents to the alternatives you propose.
- V. **Socio-Economic profile** – status, age, occupation, income (include only what is relevant to the project).
- VI. **Quality of the interview** – opinions of the respondent and the interviewer.

IMPORTANT! Although you are free in constructing your questionnaire, the basic problems indicated above, are to be included in the form you find appropriate for the aims of the project.

To achieve an excellent grade, you will need to submit a questionnaire which:

- ❖ is your own work – plagiarism OF ANY SORT will be identified and will attract a failing mark;
- ❖ is clearly structured;
- ❖ gives respondents sufficient information about the research and researchers;
- ❖ gives clear instructions to respondents as to how to answer the questionnaire, where to return it, to whom and by when;
- ❖ asks questions which the relevant respondents would be able to answer, and
- ❖ is concise enough not to deter respondents but also detailed enough to gather the right level of data.

Assignment 2: Your research proposal

This represents 30% of the final results.

The typical, but not necessary structure of this proposal should be:

1. Cover page: the title of your research. Your name, group, supervisor's name, University name, date.
2. Abstract and key words (no more than 70 words).
3. Description of the project:
 - 3.1. Current state of the problem: Why do you initiate the project?
 - 3.2. Basic objectives: the rationale for your research and the main questions you want to investigate;

- 3.3. Critical review of the literature. Indicate how does your research relate to or differ from previous work in the field. What is your contribution?
- 3.4. Basic information sources: primary, secondary, tertiary. Comment credibility and access problems.
- 3.5. Research strategy.
- 3.6. Methodology: which methodology and analytical methods (including details of sample size and type) you have chosen and why; What kind of sampling are you going to use? Quota control. How are you going to analyse the quantitative/qualitative data.- basic methods.
- 3.7. Structure of the project. Brief explanation of every part (no more than 60 words per part). A plan showing roughly when each element of the research will be carried out.,
4. Schedule of the project: duration of the stages needed to prepare the project.
5. Expected results: the practical value of the research. The technical and ethical problems which you may encounter.

References.

IMPORTANT! ALTHOUGH THIS STRUCTURE IS NOT OBLIGATORY AND YOU ARE FREE IN COSTRUCTING YOUR PROPOSAL, REMEMBER THAT YOU HAVE TO PRESENT ALL PROBLEMS INDICATED ABOVE IN THE FORM YOU FIND MORE SUITABLE.

Using non-technical language does not replace the terminology of the course.

See Saunders et al. pp. 28-36 for advice.

This assignment should be between 2000 (minimum) and 2500 (maximum) words in length.

NB The word count required for this assignment does NOT include your bibliography. Please also note that writing too little or too much may result in loss of marks.

To achieve an excellent grade, you will need to submit a proposal which:

- ❖ is your own work – plagiarism OF ANY SORT will be identified and will attract a failing mark;
- ❖ is clearly structured and written in an academic style., n refers to other pieces of research or work on research methodology as appropriate. And
- ❖ demonstrates an in-depth understanding of issues around selecting an appropriate research methodology,

3. PowerPoint presentation.

This represents 20% of your final results.

A range of short presentations allowing students to hear from subject tutors who have research experience in specific business-related fields. Particularly focused on issues arising from research in these different disciplines and on 'cutting edge' work in each discipline.

Organisation.

To be successful in this discipline, it is recommended to complete the following tasks by the end of every lecture:

No. of Lecture	Task
1. Final dissertation	To have idea how to formulate the topic.
2. Formulating topic.	To discuss the topic of the dissertation
3. Literature review	The topic of the dissertation is formulated
4. Research strategy	Basic literature is overviewed
5. Primary data.	Discussion the structure of the dissertation
6. Interviewing	Outlining the questionnaire
7. Questionnaire	The questionnaire draft discussed.
8. Ethics	Discussion of the first draft
9. Sampling	Discussion of the first draft
10. Secondary data	Discussion of the first draft
11. Quantitative data	Discussion of the first draft
12. Qualitative data	The proposal is presented within one week after the lecture.

3. **The participation in class discussion** scores (20%) are based on the following criteria:

1. Attendance according to the official records.
2. My personal observations of making notes during the lectures. Students, which makes notes and do not make noise during the lectures receive 0.5% per academic hour of lecture.

Important! No notes are accepted unless the student has officially attended the lecture.

3. Punctuality – preparing your homeworks in due time according to the schedule.
4. Participation in the class discussion in form of explaining to the other students some problems during the lectures.

Normally the participation is calculated as weighted average of the official attendance and my records of making notes (points 1 and 2). Points 3 and 4 however are important for the border cases.

5. **Exams.** There is only final exam for this course. It will include 2 out of 4 essay questions explaining how you prepared your project proposal.

IMPORTANT! Students recorded by me to make systematically noise during the discussions will lose the 10% given for participation.

Exams. There are two exams: mid-term and final.

Attendance

Classroom attendance is mandatory.

The attendance is recorded to the administration after every lecture by Internet. Students, who are absent over 70% of the class time, automatically fail the course. Working is not accepted as an excuse.

Honor Code: All work done on the exams will be done on your own and pledged. Students may discuss homework concepts and approaches, but the work will be done by the individual. Group or copied solutions are not permitted. Homework is considered pledged simply by its receipt.

Late Work and Examinations: Normally, homework is due one week from the assigned date, unless otherwise indicated or previous arrangements are made. Late homework will be accepted due to sickness only. Students who know that they are going to miss class should make arrangements in advance. Only selected homework problems may be graded from the set turned in. The others will be checked for completion.

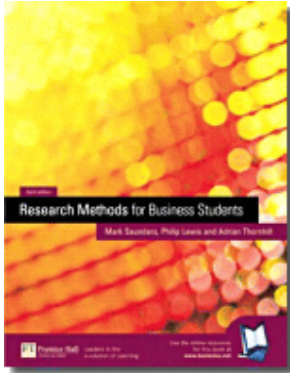
According to the University grading rules your final results are estimated by means of a curve distribution. It means that your grades reflect not your own absolute results, but relative to the results of the other students in the group. Usually I apply a curve in which students collecting less than 50% fail and students collecting more than 90% receive A grade.

Every student has individual exam paper. To see a model of an exam paper please, [click here.](#)

Recommended reading and texts

I recommend you to use the manual: Saunders, M., Lewis, P. and Thornhill, A. Research Methods for Business Students, 3/e, Prentice Hall which is a good generalist text on business research methods, and is the text from which the required reading is taken. You should also pay attention to the self-study material at the end of every chapter in this text, as well as the references and further reading lists.

Read also the [complement to the syllabus.](#)



Mark Saunders, Philip Lewis and Adrian Thornhill

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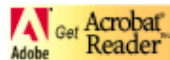
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