

PhD Program

Course Outline

RSM3080: Research Methods in Business

Fall & Winter & Spring 2015/2016

Course Meets: Tuesday, September 10th, 2015, 9am-noon, Introduction
Monday, October 19th, 2015, 12pm-2pm, Business Economics Seminar
Wednesday, November 4th, 2015, 10:30am-12:30 pm, Accounting Seminar
Thursday March 10th, 3:30pm-5:30pm, Strategy Seminar
Friday, March 11th, 10:30am-12:30pm, Finance Seminar
Monday, April 4th, 2016, 1pm-5pm, Presentations
Friday, April 15th, 2016, 10:30am – 12:30pm, Marketing Seminar
Friday, April 22nd, 2016 2pm -3pm, Operations Management Seminar
Wednesday, April 27th, 2016, 11:30-1:30pm, OBHRM Seminar

Organizer: Stéphane Côté, Room 6015, Rotman
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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Scope and Mission

Besides a firm grounding in their core discipline, PhD students in management also benefit from awareness of the multidisciplinary character of research in management, and connections to standards of scientific inquiry across the disciplines. First, this course seeks to complement students' disciplinary training by providing some guidance on developing research questions in management that make important contributions. Second, it provides opportunities for students to practice communicating the importance of their research questions to researchers in management disciplines. Third, it seeks to expose students to the variety of research questions and research methodologies across the topic areas that dominate research and teaching at schools of management.

Course Format

The course will have three basic components:

- a. A workshop delivered by Professor Stéphane Côté focused on developing research questions that are important to management.
- b. A series of visits to regularly scheduled area research workshops, each followed by a debriefing session. The goal is to schedule these roughly once per month.
- c. A workshop in which PhD students from each area identify and evaluate the character of major research questions in their management discipline.

Required Readings

Students should read the following article prior to the first session on September 10:

Locke, K., & Golden-Biddle, K. (1997). Constructing opportunities for contribution: Structuring intertextual coherence and “problematizing” in organizational studies. *Academy of Management Journal*, 40, 1023-1062.

Papers for the area research workshops will be available from the area administrators prior to the talks. Please make sure that you review the material before the seminar.

Evaluation and Grades

The course is required of all PhD students and is being offered on a credit/no-credit basis.

Successful completion will require regular attendance, presentation of a research question during the last session of the course, and preparation of 3-5 pp. assignment on a research question. The details for this assignment appear on the last page of this syllabus.

Weekly Schedule

Details of workshop presentations can be found on the respective area workshop web sites.

Session	Date and Location	Topic
1	Tuesday, September 10, 2015 9:00-noon, Room 157	<i>Developing Research Questions that Make Contributions to Management</i> Stéphane Côté
2	Monday, October 19, 2015 12:00-1:30, Room LL1030 (After Session 1:30-2, Room LL1025)	<i>Business Economics Seminar</i> Alessandro Gavazza, NYU
3	Wednesday, November 4, 2015 10:30-12:00, Room 151 (After Session 12-12:30, Room 2050D)	<i>Accounting Seminar</i> Brian Bushee, University of Pennsylvania
4	Thursday, March 10 th , 2016 3:30pm-5:00pm, Room LL1025 (After Session, 5-5:30pm, Room 157 NEW ROOM 151)	<i>Strategy Seminar</i> Amanda Sharkey, University of Chicago
5	Friday, March 11, 2016 10:30am-12:00pm, Room 147 (After Session, 12-12:30 pm, Room 142)	<i>Finance Seminar</i> Geoffrey Tate, University of North Carolina
6	Monday, April 4 th , 2016 1:00-5:00pm, Room 1065	<i>Student Presentations</i> Stéphane Côté
7	Friday, April 15 th , 2016 10:30-noon, Room 133 (After Session, 12-12:30pm, Room 127)	<i>Marketing Seminar</i> Colin Camerer, Caltech
8	Friday, April 22 nd , 2016 2pm-3pm, Room 133 (After Session, 3pm-3:30pm, Room 127)	<i>Operations Management Seminar</i> Beril Toktay, GIT
9	Wednesday, April 27 th , 2016 11:30am-1pm, Room 133 (After Session, 1-1:30pm, Room 127)	<i>OBHRM Seminar</i> Madan Pillutla, London Business School

Assignment: Development and Communication of Research Question

In the first session of the course, we will cover tools to choose research questions that contribute to the literature. The goal of this assignment is to use the tools provided by the discussion and readings to develop and describe a research question about a topic that interests you. You should write a 3-5 page document that situates the research in the literature and identifies and motivates the research question.

In doing this assignment, you should follow the guidelines described by Locke and Golden-Biddle (1997) to represent and organize the existing knowledge on your topic and, in turn, signify the importance of your contribution.

More specifically, your assignment should have the following sections:

- a) A summary of existing knowledge on the topic. You should describe the literature by organizing the findings of at least five empirical studies. In organizing these studies, examine Locke and Golden-Biddle's (1997) description of the different types of intertextual coherence. Do not write it explicitly, but you should know which type of intertextual coherence (i.e., synthesized coherence, progressive coherence, or noncoherence) is reflected in your paper.
- b) A section that "problematizes the situation" and identifies your research question. In your paper, you should follow your description of the extant literature with one of the strategies of problematization described by Golden-Biddle (1997). Again, do not write it, but you should know which problematization strategy (i.e., incompleteness, inadequacy, or incommensurability) you are relying on. This section of your paper should identify your research question that seeks to advance the area of research to which you plan on contributing.

You will submit an e-copy of your assignment to Stéphane by **Friday, April 22, 2016**, at noon. The assignment should be at most five pages plus the references and any other supplementary materials. The format is double-spaced, with Times New Roman twelve-point font.

In addition, you will present your assignment in class during one of the last sessions of the course (the order of presentations will be randomly assigned). Presentations will be 20-minutes long, including Q&A.