

Course Outline & Study Guide

Faculty	Fine and Applied Arts		
Department	Multimedia and Graphic Arts		
Course Title	Masters Thesis		
Course Type	Elective		
Instructor's Name	Panayiotis Zaphiris		
ECTS	28		
Course Code		Semester	Offered in both terms
Prerequisites	All core courses	Required	
Level of Studies	Master		
Language of Instruction και Examination	English		
Teaching Methodology	Distance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hybrid <input type="checkbox"/>	
Evaluation	Written Thesis (90%) Presentation (10%)		
This study guide has been developed by the instructor of the course and it has been approved by the program coordinator	Name of instructor: Panayiotis Zaphiris Name of Program Coordinator: Panayiotis Zaphiris		

<i>Brief Course Summary & Course Purpose</i>	<p>This course is a final milestone for the MA Design for Social Innovation. It's an elective course as students can choose the alternative final milestone route that consists of the Summer School and Diploma Project. The difference being that the Master's Thesis is a more theoretical approach to research in relation to Design for Social Innovation while the Summer School and Diploma Project takes a more practical approach. Both routes meet and align to the overall programme requirements albeit having a different emphasis on the balance between research and practice.</p> <p>The Master's Thesis allows students to complete a capstone research project bringing forth and combining learnings from a variety of courses taught in the programme. This course requires students to craft and execute a research proposal in the form of a written thesis under the guidance of an academic supervisor. The specific guidelines for the Master's Thesis have been created as a separate document. The culmination of the course is the defence of the thesis to a panel of assessors.</p>
<i>Course Content (list of subjects to be delivered per week)</i>	<p>In consultation with the course coordinator, each student develops a research proposal based on their own interests which is uploaded during the first session of the semester or can use the research proposal developed as part of the Research Methods course. The course coordinator is responsible for matching the students to suitable supervisors from the academic faculty of the programme.</p> <p>During the semester, the students will meet on a frequent basis with supervisors and agree on a structure and timeline for conducting the</p>

	<p>Master’s Thesis. The Master’s Thesis Guidelines document should be read and understood by supervisors and students as it contains essential information about what is expected to be included as well as practical guidelines on formatting and structure.</p> <p>Activities that usually take place during the semester consist of literature review, gathering data, analysing data and a write-up period. At the end of the semester, students submit their manuscript for evaluation by two assessors and are required to present their research in a viva setting.</p> <p>Students are additionally supported by material and objectives that span the course duration as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Session 1: Introduction to Master's Thesis Course and Research Methodologies 2. Session 2: Developing a Research Question and Literature Review 3. Session 3: Designing Research Methods and Data Collection 4. Session 4: Analyzing Data and Drawing Conclusions 5. Session 5: Developing a Prototype or Pilot Study 6. Session 6: Refining the Thesis and Preparing for Submission 7. Session 7: Presenting and Defending the Master's Thesis
<p><i>Learning Outcomes (please develop the learning outcomes of the course considering the EQF guide as indicated in the next column)</i></p>	<p>The learning outcomes for the Master's Thesis course align with the European Qualification Framework (EQF) guide for Level 7. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:</p> <p>Knowledge and Understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate a critical understanding of the research process and methodologies Synthesize and critically evaluate academic literature related to their research question Utilise bibliographic reference managers competently. Apply design thinking and innovation principles to social challenges <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design a research project that critically evaluates social innovation literature or practice. Design and conduct research using appropriate methods and data collection techniques Analyze and interpret research data to draw conclusions Articulate clearly research objectives and aims within an academic and scholarly context, build arguments through review

	<p>of literature and discuss outcomes and results supported by evidence.</p> <p>Narrate the research process in the form of a master’s thesis manuscript according to the thesis guidelines and requirements of the programme.</p> <p>Develop and test a prototype or pilot study to validate their thesis</p> <p>Competences:</p> <p>Describe the research project written and orally to faculty and mentors.</p> <p>Communicate their research findings effectively to a range of audiences</p> <p>Manage the Master's Thesis project effectively, from inception to completion</p> <p>Demonstrate independent and critical thinking in the development of their thesis.</p> <p>Execute successfully a research project taking into account limitations and thesis requirements.</p>
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Keywords

Design thinking, Social innovation, Research methodologies, Prototyping, Thesis development, Critical thinking

Teaching Schedule: Asynchronous teaching & learning, organized in seven 2-week sessions

<i>Number of Lectures (Sessions)</i>	Total: 7	Face to Face:	Distance: 7
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Evaluation Schedule:

Supervisors engage in a series of synchronous meetings with students that are more effective when an agenda and/or work is sent in advance of each meeting by the student. Students learn by identifying and engaging with problems of their interests, taking the main responsibility within the research process. They direct their own lines of inquiry — which often means identifying their own problems — and identify appropriate methods and resources with which to address or resolve them with the help of resources and supervisor’s guidance. The supervisors act as a ‘walking resource’, guiding the students’ problem-solving without undermining the students’ autonomy, which is crucial in active learning approaches. Teaching and learning are thus integrated such that supervisors and students become ‘partners in the learning process’.

Additionally a series of evaluation methods and objectives span the sessions:

Session 1: Introduction to Master's Thesis Course and Research Methodologies

Evaluation Method: Reflection Paper

In this session, students will be introduced to the Master's Thesis course and research methodologies. To evaluate their understanding, they will be asked to write a reflection paper summarizing what they learned in the session and how it relates to their research interests.

Session 2: Developing a Research Question and Literature Review

Evaluation Method: Research Question and Literature Review

In this session, students will learn how to develop a research question and conduct a literature review. To evaluate their understanding, they will be asked to submit their research question and literature review, which will be reviewed and assessed for relevance and rigor.

Session 3: Designing Research Methods and Data Collection

Evaluation Method: Research Proposal

In this session, students will learn how to design research methods and collect data. To evaluate their understanding, they will be asked to submit a research proposal that outlines their research question, research methods, and data collection plan. The proposal will be reviewed and assessed for feasibility and alignment with the research question.

Session 4: Analyzing Data and Drawing Conclusions

Evaluation Method: Data Analysis Report

In this session, students will learn how to analyze research data and draw conclusions. To evaluate their understanding, they will be asked to submit a data analysis report that presents their findings and draws conclusions based on the analysis. The report will be reviewed and assessed for rigor and clarity.

Session 5: Developing a Prototype or Pilot Study

Evaluation Method: Prototype or Pilot Study

In this session, students will learn how to develop a prototype or pilot study to test their thesis. To evaluate their understanding, they will be asked to submit a prototype or pilot study that demonstrates their understanding of design thinking and innovation principles. The prototype or pilot study will be reviewed and assessed for feasibility and relevance.

Session 6: Refining the Thesis and Preparing for Submission

Evaluation Method: Thesis Outline and Feedback

In this session, students will learn how to refine their thesis and prepare it for submission. To evaluate their understanding, they will be asked to submit a thesis outline that reflects the feedback they received from their peers and instructor. The outline will be reviewed and assessed for coherence and relevance.

Session 7: Presenting and Defending the Master's Thesis

Evaluation Method: Thesis Presentation and Defense

In this session, students will present and defend their Master's Thesis. To evaluate their understanding, they will be assessed on their ability to communicate their research findings effectively, respond to questions and feedback, and demonstrate a critical understanding of their research topic. The thesis presentation and defense will be evaluated by the instructor and a panel of experts in the field.

While there is a range of evaluation methods listed above, there are no sequential assignments in this course that are assessed. The assessed component of the course is the final written thesis (90%) and viva presentation (10%) assessed jointly and unanimously by two assessors within the course faculty assigned by the course coordinator.

[1x written thesis (90%); 1x thesis presentation (10%)]

Teaching and Learning Tools

Google Education Platform

Contact Information (office Hours, method of contact etc)

Best way to get in touch with the instructor is via the dsi.education email (pzaphiris@dsi.education), a second way is through posting in the google classroom environment or via the chat on hangouts. Special online "office hours" can be set up for group or individual mentoring if needed through google hangout/chat.

Study Guide

Session 1 (W 1-2)

Subject: Introduction to Master's Thesis Course and Research Methodologies

Learning Objectives

The objectives of the session are to cover:

- Understand the purpose and scope of the Master's Thesis course
- Familiarize with research methodologies and their application in social innovation

Learning Outcomes

By successfully completing this session, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the Master's Thesis course and its relevance to their research interests
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of research methodologies and how they can be applied in social innovation

Content

Introduction to the Master's Thesis course and its objectives
Overview of research methodologies and their application in social innovation

Self-evaluation activities	Reflection paper summarizing what was learned in the session and how it relates to their research interests
Bibliography	<p>Halyna Maria Kornuta, Ronald Wesley Germaine, (2019), A Concise Guide to Writing a Thesis Or Dissertation: Educational Research and Beyond, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.</p> <p>Ian Smith, Mark Stephan Felix, (2019), A Practical Guide to Dissertation and Thesis Writing, Cambridge Scholars Publishing</p> <p>Robert Peters (1997), Getting What You Came For: The Smart Student's Guide to Earning an M.A. or a Ph.D. Farrar, Straus and Giroux</p>
Hours of Study including self-evaluation activities and or assignment's preparation	2 hours for each objective, totaling 4 hours for the session
Keywords:	
Study Guide	
Session 2 (W 3-4)	Subject: Developing a Research Question and Literature Review
Learning Objectives	<p>The objectives of the session are to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a research question that addresses a specific problem in social innovation - Conduct a literature review to identify relevant sources and previous research on the topic
Learning Outcomes	<p>By successfully completing this session, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate ability to develop a research question that addresses a specific problem in social innovation - Demonstrate ability to conduct a literature review to identify relevant sources and previous research on the topic
Content	<p>Importance of a well-defined research question in social innovation</p> <p>Techniques for developing a research question</p> <p>Overview of literature review and its importance in social innovation research</p> <p>Techniques for conducting a literature review</p>
Self-evaluation activities	(1) Submit a research question and literature review
Bibliography	<p>Halyna Maria Kornuta, Ronald Wesley Germaine, (2019), A Concise Guide to Writing a Thesis Or Dissertation: Educational Research and Beyond, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.</p> <p>Ian Smith, Mark Stephan Felix, (2019), A Practical Guide to Dissertation and Thesis Writing, Cambridge Scholars Publishing</p>

	Robert Peters (1997), <i>Getting What You Came For: The Smart Student's Guide to Earning an M.A. or a Ph.D.</i> Farrar, Straus and Giroux
Hours of Study including self-evaluation activities and or assignment's preparation	Studying: i.e. 12 hours Self-evaluation: i.e. 10 Hours
Keywords:	
Study Guide	
Session 3 (W 5-6)	Subject: Designing Research Methods and Data Collection
Learning Objectives	The objectives of the session are to cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand different research methods and their application in social innovation - Develop skills in designing research methods and data collection techniques
Learning Outcomes	By successfully completing this session, students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different research methods and their application in social innovation - Demonstrate ability to design research methods and data collection techniques that address a social issue
Content	Overview of different research methods and their application in social innovation Techniques for designing research methods and data collection techniques Importance of ethical considerations in research methods and data collection
Self-evaluation activities	Submit a research plan that includes research methods and data collection techniques
Bibliography	Halyna Maria Kornuta, Ronald Wesley Germaine, (2019), <i>A Concise Guide to Writing a Thesis Or Dissertation: Educational Research and Beyond</i> , Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group. Ian Smith, Mark Stephan Felix, (2019), <i>A Practical Guide to Dissertation and Thesis Writing</i> , Cambridge Scholars Publishing Robert Peters (1997), <i>Getting What You Came For: The Smart Student's Guide to Earning an M.A. or a Ph.D.</i> Farrar, Straus and Giroux
Hours of Study including self-evaluation activities and or assignment's preparation	Studying: 12 hours Self-evaluation: 10 hours

Keywords:	
Study Guide	
Session 4 (W 7-8)	Subject: Analyzing Data and Drawing Conclusions
Learning Objectives	<p>The objectives of the session are to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand different data analysis techniques and their application in social innovation research - Develop skills in analyzing data to draw conclusions about a social issue
Learning Outcomes	<p>By successfully completing this session, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different data analysis techniques and their application in social innovation research - Demonstrate ability to analyze data to draw conclusions about a social issue
Content	<p>Overview of different data analysis techniques and their application in social innovation research Techniques for analyzing data to draw conclusions about a social issue Importance of ethical considerations in data analysis</p>
Self-evaluation activities	Submit a report on data analysis and conclusions drawn
Bibliography	<p>Halyna Maria Kornuta, Ronald Wesley Germaine, (2019), A Concise Guide to Writing a Thesis Or Dissertation: Educational Research and Beyond, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.</p> <p>Ian Smith, Mark Stephan Felix, (2019), A Practical Guide to Dissertation and Thesis Writing, Cambridge Scholars Publishing</p> <p>Robert Peters (1997), Getting What You Came For: The Smart Student's Guide to Earning an M.A. or a Ph.D. Farrar, Straus and Giroux</p>
Hours of Study including self-evaluation activities and or assignment's preparation	<p>Studying: 12 hours Self-evaluation: 10 hours</p>
Keywords:	

Study Guide	
Session 5 (W 9-10)	Subject: Developing a Prototype or Pilot Study
Learning Objectives	<p>The objectives of the session are to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand the importance of prototyping and pilot studies in social innovation research - Develop skills in creating and testing a prototype or pilot study
Learning Outcomes	<p>By successfully completing this session, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate ability to create and test a prototype or pilot study that addresses a social issue - Demonstrate ability to identify and address ethical considerations in prototype or pilot study design
Content	<p>Please describe the main content of the subject (1-3 pages max)</p> <p>Importance of prototyping and pilot studies in social innovation research Techniques for creating and testing a prototype or pilot study Identification and address of ethical considerations in prototype or pilot study design</p>
Self-evaluation activities	Submit a prototype or pilot study report that includes ethical considerations
Bibliography	<p>Halyna Maria Kornuta, Ronald Wesley Germaine, (2019), A Concise Guide to Writing a Thesis Or Dissertation: Educational Research and Beyond, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.</p> <p>Ian Smith, Mark Stephan Felix, (2019), A Practical Guide to Dissertation and Thesis Writing, Cambridge Scholars Publishing</p> <p>Robert Peters (1997), Getting What You Came For: The Smart Student's Guide to Earning an M.A. or a Ph.D. Farrar, Straus and Giroux</p>
Hours of Study including self-evaluation activities and or assignment's preparation	<p>Studying: 12 hours</p> <p>Self-evaluation: 10 hours</p>
Keywords:	
Study Guide	
Session 6 (W 11-12)	Subject: Refining the Thesis and Preparing for Submission
Learning Objectives	The objectives of the session are to cover:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand the requirements for the MA Design for Social Innovation thesis - Develop skills in refining and editing the thesis - Understand the submission process for the thesis
Learning Outcomes	<p>By successfully completing this session, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate ability to refine and edit the thesis to meet MA Design for Social Innovation requirements - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the submission process for the thesis
Content	<p>Overview of MA Design for Social Innovation thesis requirements Techniques for refining and editing the thesis Overview of the submission process for the thesis</p>
Self-evaluation activities	<p>Submit a final version of the thesis for review and feedback</p>
Bibliography	<p>Halyna Maria Kornuta, Ronald Wesley Germaine, (2019), A Concise Guide to Writing a Thesis Or Dissertation: Educational Research and Beyond, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.</p> <p>Ian Smith, Mark Stephan Felix, (2019), A Practical Guide to Dissertation and Thesis Writing, Cambridge Scholars Publishing</p> <p>Robert Peters (1997), Getting What You Came For: The Smart Student's Guide to Earning an M.A. or a Ph.D. Farrar, Straus and Giroux</p>
Hours of Study including self-evaluation activities and or assignment's preparation	<p>Studying: 12 hours Self-evaluation: 5 hours</p>
Keywords:	
Study Guide	
Session 7 (W 13-14) EXAM PERIOD	Subject: Presenting and Defending the Master's Thesis
Learning Objectives	<p>The objectives of the session are to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop skills in presenting and defending the MA Design for Social Innovation thesis - Understand the expectations for the thesis defense

Learning Outcomes	<p>By successfully completing this session, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate ability to present and defend the MA Design for Social Innovation thesis - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the expectations for the thesis defense
Content	<p>Overview of the thesis defense process Techniques for presenting and defending the thesis Best practices for answering questions and addressing feedback during the defense</p>
Self-evaluation activities	<p>Prepare and deliver a thesis defense presentation</p>
Bibliography	<p>Halyna Maria Kornuta, Ronald Wesley Germaine, (2019), A Concise Guide to Writing a Thesis Or Dissertation: Educational Research and Beyond, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.</p> <p>Ian Smith, Mark Stephan Felix, (2019), A Practical Guide to Dissertation and Thesis Writing, Cambridge Scholars Publishing</p> <p>Robert Peters (1997), Getting What You Came For: The Smart Student's Guide to Earning an M.A. or a Ph.D. Farrar, Straus and Giroux</p>
Hours of Study including self-evaluation activities and or assignment's preparation	<p>Studying: 12 hours Self-evaluation: 30 hours</p>
Keywords:	