

Course Name : Research Methods							
Course Code	Course Type	Regular Semester	Lecture (hours/week)	Seminar (hours/week)	Lab. (hours/week)	Credits	ECTS
LAW 401	A	Fall	4.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	6.00
Lecturer		Ferdinand Xhaferaj, PhD					
Assistant		Gentjan Skara, PhD					
Course language		Albanian					
Course level		Master					
Description		This course intends the application in practice of the knowledges gained in “Advanced Researching Methods” during the selection and classification of materials of a study or thesis. Problems faced during the preparation of thesis and the solution ways. It also intends practice of researching techniques and methods.					
Objectives		Supply of necessary informations for master and doctoral students relating regularly labor, selection and classification of materials during preparation of a study case or thesis. Problems faced during preparation of thesis and the solution ways. Researching techniques and methods. Gathering and classification of data.					
Core Concepts							
Course Outline							
Week	Topic						
1	Presentation of the Syllabi. Introduction to Research Method						
2	Social Research Methods						
3	Research Design I: Research designs and methods - Criteria in social research - Types of validity - Types of research design						
4	Research Design II: Experimental research design - Cross – sectional research design and Longitudinal research design						
5	Research Design III: Case study research design and Comparative research design						
6	Planning, Formulating Questions and Reviewing the Literature I: Identifying research questions - Types of research question and Steps in formulating research questions						
7	Planning, Formulating Questions and Reviewing the Literature II: Definition of literature review - Importance of literature review and Writing a literature review						
8	Mid – Term Exam						
9	Strategies how to write one and five paragraph essay						
10	Academic Legal Writing; IRAC Method and Sample Essays as a case study						
11	How to read a research paper? How to prepare Presentation Slides and present them effectively						
12	E-research: Internet research methods and Legal Research on the Internet						
13	Legal Research: Methodologies and Techniques						
14	Referencing Style (Chicago and OSCOLA Style)						
15	Review						
16	Final Exam						

Prerequisites	The student must attend the course at a minimum rate of 75%.
Literature	• Alan Bryman, Social Research Methods (4th Edition, OUP 2012) • Earl R. Babbie, The Practice of Social Research (12th Edition, Cengage Learning 2012) • Edward P. Bailey and Philip A. Powell, The Practical Writer with Readings (7th Edition, Thomson Wadsworth 2008) • Eugene Volokh, Academic Legal Writing: Law Review Articles, Student Notes, Seminar Papers, and Getting on Law Review (4 edition, Foundation Press 2010)
References	• Oxford University Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA) <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxlaw/oscola_4th_edn_hart_2012.pdf> accessed 1 September 2015
Course Outcome	
1	The course is aimed to further develop the knowledge and skills related to social research methods in general and with a focus more on legal research. Upon the successful completion of the course the master students should be able to present an overview of the social research process
2	The course is aimed to further develop the knowledge and skills related to social research methods in general and with a focus more on legal research. Upon the successful completion of the course the master students should be able to have advanced knowledge on social research methods and on legal research
3	The course is aimed to further develop the knowledge and skills related to social research methods in general and with a focus more on legal research. Upon the successful completion of the course the master students should be able to shape clearly the research questions and perform a preliminary literature review of the concepts embracing the research questions
4	The course is aimed to further develop the knowledge and skills related to social research methods in general and with a focus more on legal research. Upon the successful completion of the course the master students should be able to distinguish between quantitative and qualitative methods
5	The course is aimed to further develop the knowledge and skills related to social research methods in general and with a focus more on legal research. Upon the successful completion of the course the master students should be able to consider aspects of research ethics
6	The course is aimed to further develop the knowledge and skills related to social research methods in general and with a focus more on legal research. Upon the successful completion of the course the master students should be able to understand how to classify and to interpret data gathered to test proposed theory
7	The course is aimed to further develop the knowledge and skills related to social research methods in general and with a focus more on legal research. Upon the successful completion of the course the master students should be able to understand Internet Research Methods and how to conduct Legal Research on the Internet
8	The course is aimed to further develop the knowledge and skills related to social research methods in general and with a focus more on legal research. Upon the successful completion of the course the master students should be able to develop a personal skill for writing about legal matters
9	The course is aimed to further develop the knowledge and skills related to social research methods in general and with a focus more on legal research. Upon the successful completion of the course the master students should be able to demonstrate the ability to critically analyze and assess an academic paper in general and a legal research paper
10	The course is aimed to further develop the knowledge and skills related to social research methods in general and with a focus more on legal research. Upon the successful completion of the course the master students should be able to construct a research plan
11	The course is aimed to further develop the knowledge and skills related to social research methods in general and with a focus more on legal research. Upon the successful completion of the course the master students should be able to use accurate and complete citations and understand the difference between in-text and footnote citation

12	The course is aimed to further develop the knowledge and skills related to social research methods in general and with a focus more on legal research. Upon the successful completion of the course the master students should be able to acquire the technique of writing master thesis		
Course Evaluation			
In-term Studies		Quantity	Percentage
Midterms		1	40
Quizzes		0	0
Projects		1	5
Term Projects		0	0
Laboratory		0	0
Class Participation		0	0
Total in-term evaluation percent			45
Final exam percent			55
Total			100
ECTS Workload (Based on Student Workload)			
Activities	Quantity	Duration (hours)	Total (hours)
Course duration (Including the exam week: 16x Total hours of the course)	16	4	64
Study hours outside the classroom (Preparation, Practice, etc.)	14	3	42
Duties	1	30	30
Midterms	1	0	0
Final Exam	1	20	20
Other	0	0	0
Total Work Load			156
Total Work Load / 25 (hours)			6.24
ECTS			6.00