

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>“THESIS ANALYSIS” (7,5 credits; mandatory JIBS course), Fall 2010</b>
<b>Admission</b>	Enrolled as Ph.D. student at JIBS and fluent in English.
<b>Requirement</b>	Ideally, the student should already have taken the Philosophy of Science and one or two method courses before taking this course. However, this is not a formal requirement.
<b>Objectives</b>	The primary goal of the course is to enhance the participants’ ability to read, analyze, critique, defend, and suggest improvements of research from scientific and methodological perspectives. The secondary goal is to give the student a foundation for what a dissertation is and how it is composed and developed.
<b>Contents</b>	We will have seven meetings (kick-off included), of which the first four will be two hours in duration. The core content of the course is the students’ reading of five doctoral theses. Four of the theses are assigned by the instructor and read by all participants, whereas students select one doctoral dissertation including public defense themselves.
<b>Teaching</b>	Instructor lead discussion seminars and student presentations. Self-study in groups or individually.
<b>Instructors</b>	Professor Helén Anderson (HA) is the main instructor. Invited guests will appear.
<b>Examination</b>	Written assignments. Active participation in class. The grades are ‘pass’ or ‘fail’. Most assignments are individual while others are suitable for teamwork in teams of two students.
<b>Course readings</b>	Four doctoral theses assigned by the instructor plus for session 1-4 one selected by the student for session 7. Some additional readings assigned for sessions 5 and 6.
<b>Course evaluation</b>	Written and oral during the final session 7.

**Schedule (changes may occur and if so notification will be made by e-mail)**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Hand-in /Prepare</b>	<b>Place</b>
Thu June 17, 4-5PM	Kick-off meeting		B6046
Tue Sep 14, 3PM sharp		Assignment 1	*paper copy in HA's pigeon hole or in pdf to <a href="mailto:ahel@jibs.hj.se">ahel@jibs.hj.se</a>
Thu Sep 16, 2-4PM	<b>Session 1:</b> Thesis analysis – Helene Ahl	<i>Class discussion based on assignments</i>	B4221
Tue Dec14, 3PM sharp		Assignment 2	*paper copy in HA's pigeon hole or in pdf to <a href="mailto:ahel@jibs.hj.se">ahel@jibs.hj.se</a>
Thu Dec 16, 2-4PM	<b>Session 2:</b> Thesis analysis – Jonas Dahlqvist	<i>Class discussion based on assignment</i> <b>Thesis selection for assignment 7</b>	B4221
Tue Jan 11 2011, 3PM sharp		Assignment 3	*paper copy in HA's pigeon hole or in pdf to <a href="mailto:ahel@jibs.hj.se">ahel@jibs.hj.se</a>
Thu Jan 13 2011, 2-4PM	<b>Session 3:</b> Thesis analysis – Lucia Naldi	<i>Class discussion based on assignment</i>	B6046
Tue Jan 25, 3PM		Assignment 4	*paper copy in HA's pigeon hole or in pdf to <a href="mailto:ahel@jibs.hj.se">ahel@jibs.hj.se</a>
Thu Jan 27, 2-4PM	<b>Session 4:</b> Thesis analysis – Mart Ots	<i>Class discussion based on assignment</i>	B4221
Mon Feb 21, 3PM		Assignments 5-6	*paper copy in HA's pigeon hole or in pdf to <a href="mailto:ahel@jibs.hj.se">ahel@jibs.hj.se</a>
Wed Feb 23, 1-3PM	<b>Session 5:</b> Thesis writing, defense and then what?	<i>Panel discussion with Doctors</i>	B4221
Wed Feb 23, 3-5PM	<b>Session 6:</b> Examining doctoral dissertations	<i>Panel discussion with Examiners</i>	B4221
Mon March 21, 3 PM		Assignment 7	*paper copy in HA's pigeon hole or in pdf to <a href="mailto:ahel@jibs.hj.se">ahel@jibs.hj.se</a> , and to every participant in the course
Wed March 23, 8AM-5PM	<b>Session 7:</b> Thesis analysis - own selection	<i>Acting as defendant and opponent as were it your own</i>	B4221

\*If the new intranet PingPong will be working well already in early September it may be used for the first session. If so instructions will be sent out by e-mail.

## **COURSE            THESIS ANALYSIS**

Note that assignments are demanding. Due to travel and holidays, the scheduling will sometimes give you more and sometimes less time than you need in order to satisfactorily do the assignments between classes. ***Please plan your work carefully in order to be able to deliver in time!***

### **Assignment 1-4 (individual):**

#### **Thesis analysis – (1)Ahl's, (2)Dahlqvist's, (3)Naldi's and (4)Ots's dissertation**

Read the thesis carefully and assess it in terms of strengths and weaknesses. Prepare a document of about 3-5 pages with your assessment. You can use the following general criteria as a guideline:

1. *Choice of topic.* Is the topic interesting? Does the author evoke reader interest from start? Does the author convincingly show that this research is relevant and needed?
2. *Theory; conceptual framework.* Does the author show mastery of relevant theories and previous research? Is theory well used for interpreting and communicating the findings/results?
3. *Research design and Method(ology).* Is theory adequately used for designing the study? Does the author show awareness of fundamental issues of ontology and epistemology, and is the thesis consistent in this regard? Does the author appear to have adequate technical skills for data collection and analysis, and is this communicated well to the reader?
4. *Writing and organization.* Are the thesis and its parts well structured (goes for both monograph and collection of articles)? Is the writing efficient in terms of conveying the message? Is it perhaps even elegant? Is the writing style appropriate and consistent?
5. *Conclusion.* Are there clear and well communicated conclusions? Is the research question well answered?
6. *Contribution.* Do you think that there is a scholarly contribution and to what field?
7. *Other.* Are there other aspects that affect the quality and importance of this research?

***Hand in the day before the meeting in HA's pigeon hole by 3PM two working days before the session.***

**COURSE        “THESIS ANALYSIS”**

**Assignment 5: Writing thesis, defense and then what? (group of 2-3)**

Find out what ever you find important and interesting to know about the panel participants (eg have a look into their dissertations). Names and readings will be revealed at session 2.

Formulate 4 questions covering both thesis writing, defense and also how and what happens/not happens or is created/not created thereafter.

*Hand in Feb 21, 3 pm, at the latest*

**Assignment 6: Examining dissertations (groups of 2-3)**

Together the panel has been involved as supervisors, opponents or examiners in more than one hundred dissertations in Business Administration. Names and readings will be revealed at session 2.

Then formulate 4 questions per group on the examination criteria and procedure.

*Hand in Feb 21, 3 pm, at the latest*

## **COURSE        “THESIS ANALYSIS”**

### **Assignment 7: Thesis analysis – “your own choice” thesis (teams of 2)**

For this assignment you should select a thesis that will be publicly defended in another school or university in Sweden or another Scandinavian country (not JIBS) during the period from September 2010 to February 2011. You should carefully read and assess the thesis, having criteria like those in assignment 1 in mind. Both in the team shall attend the defense. Please interact with Helén regarding any travelling cost problems.

For the March final seminar in the course you should prepare a role play to defend this thesis as were it your own, and you should also prepare to act as the discussant (‘opponent’) of the thesis. When coming to class, you will not know what role I will ask you to perform.

The written hand in should consist of a two-column “checklist” where you in telegraphic style (i.e., not full text) list important points to discuss/criticize as discussant on the left, and defense of expected criticism to the right.

***When reading the thesis see questions to assignment 1, when attending the defense also consider:***

1. How well do you find the defendant performs in her/his defense?
2. What important differences do you see between the opponent’s assessment of the thesis compared with your own?
3. How do you find the questions asked by the examining committee and the audience?
4. Are you surprised by any of the opponent’s praise or criticism – or silence (issues that weren’t discussed)?
5. Has your attendance at the defense changed your own assessment of the thesis in any significant way?

***Hand in March 21, 3pm the latest.***

## **Readings**

Ahl, Helene J, 2002, The making of the female entrepreneur – A Discourse Analysis of research Texts on Women's Entrepreneurship. JIBS Dissertation Series No. 015

Dahlqvist, Jonas, 2007, Assessing New Economic Activity – Process and Performance in New Ventures. JIBS Dissertation Series No. 035

Naldi, Lucia, 2008, Growth Through Internationalization: a Knowledge Perspective on SMEs. JIBS Dissertation Series No. 047

Ots, Mart, 2009, Understanding value formation – A study of marketing communications practices as the food retailer ICA. JIBS Dissertation Series No. 064

+ additional readings for session 5 and 6

+ additional thesis of own choice