

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Doctoral course: Qualitative Methods, 7,5 credit points

---

Course code:  
Reviewed by: RFB  
Approved by: RFB  
Valid as of: 2015-04-14  
Version: I  
Reference number: 2016/1099-41

Education Cycle: Third cycle, doctoral program course  
Doctoral programme subject: Business Administration

---

#### **Purpose:**

The course will render the participant theoretical as well as practical knowledge about academic methods in order to be able to collect, organize and analyze qualitative material. The course will make the student familiar with both traditional and emerging methods. Further, the student shall be knowledgeable about the quality and ethics demands in qualitative research.

#### **Intended learning outcomes:**

On completion of the course, the students will be able to:

##### *Knowledge and understanding*

1. Demonstrate a broad knowledge of the origins and development of qualitative methods including emerging trends and critically assess them
2. Be aware of and able to “defend” their epistemological and ontological stance point in qualitative research

##### *Skills and abilities*

3. Show ability to make choices between different methods/techniques and analytical tools and the ability to apply them in practice
4. Demonstrate the ability to engage in scholarly presentations, analyses and discussions regarding qualitative methods
5. Demonstrate the ability to independently and creatively identify a relevant topic about qualitative methods and to produce an academic paper for presentation

##### *Judgement and approach*

6. Critically evaluate key arguments for qualitative methods and demonstrate deeper insight into the potentials and limitations of qualitative methods, design and techniques
7. Be able to make appropriate ethical decisions in regards to both writing and collecting empirical material
8. Critically and independently evaluate own and colleagues' assignments

#### **Content:**

The course covers the origin and development of qualitative methods, approaches to qualitative method, design of qualitative method, techniques and tools for collecting and analyzing material, ethical considerations and obligations, and publishing qualitative research.

**Type of Instruction/Teaching format:**

The course will be in the format of interactive discussion seminars including theoretical introductions and/or wrap ups with conclusions and implications. Each student needs to be prepared by reading the required chapters/articles, carry through practical exercises, and to present and lead a discussion in the group.

**Prerequisites:**

Admitted to a doctoral programme at a recognized business school or university.

**Examination and grades:**

Examination will be done through active participation, written reflections exercises, presentations and a final course paper.

- Written assignments fulfill ILOs 1, 5 & 6
- Oral presentations fulfills ILOs 1, 2, 4, 7 & 8
- Active participation in discussions fulfill ILOs 1-4; 6-8

The grades for the course are “pass” or “fail”.

**Course evaluation:**

A course evaluation will be conducted at the end of the course.

**Additional Information:****Literature:**

See separate literature list.