POZNAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

EUROPEAN CREDIT TRANSFER AND ACCUMULATION SYSTEM (ECTS)
pl. M. Skłodowskiej-Curie 5, 60-965 Poznań

COURSE DESCRIPTION CARD - SYLLABUS

Course name

A GUIDE TO A SUCCESSFUL PhD THESIS: CONNECTING STRUCTURE, RE-SEARCH METHODS AND MANAGEMENT

Course

Proposed by Discipline	Year/Semester
Architecture and Urban Planning	II/4, III/6
Type of studies	Course offered in
Doctoral School	English
Form of study	Requirements
full-time	elective

Number of hours

Lecture	Tutorials	Projects/seminars
4		

Number of credit points

1

Lecturers

Responsible for the course/lecturer:

Dr. Emanuele Naboni (Associate Professor University of Parma, Affiliate Professor at the Royal Danish Academy)
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Responsible for the course/lecturer:

Prerequisites

Knowledge: basic knowledge of general history. Basic knowledge in the understanding of social, economic, legal and other determinants outside the engineering activity of historical process in Europa and worldwide.

Skills: communication skills, competence in critical analysis, ability to contribute to scientific discourse.

Social competencies: student understands the need for lifelong learning, is aware of the need for interdisciplinary research and the social role of science.

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Course objective

The aim of the course is to prepare students for the structuring of scientific work, skilful formulation of a scientific problem, research hypotheses and questions, and the selection of research methods, as well as skilful presentation of research results, their interpretation and discussion of related doubts

The course objectives:

1) to understand the academic world coordinates,

2) to grant breadth, fostering the development of a Ph.D. thesis Structure and other academic essays,

3) to give depth to research work, by converging on the development of a solid methodology and customized Research Methods (for Design and Scientific Disciplines),

4) to addresses all the aspects of the Management of a Thesis and relations to stakeholders.

From the introduction to conclusions, producing a Thesis Structure is a further challenge: the course, uniquely based on participants' the-sis work, proposes a step-by-step guide to devising a Structure that strengths Parts and Chapters organization and connections. Either Ph.D. researchers have just started their Ph.D., or are closing it; each participant will grasp the essential, iterative process by which research questions generate Knowledge.

Critical to the Process is the vast range of Research Methods suita-ble for the diverse array of topics germane to Design Research (e.g. research by Design, Qualitative Research design, Correlational, Experimental, Simulation, Case Studies). When logical, participants will be seeking ways to marshal the benefits of two or more Research Methods applied to their investigations in order to build a solid Methodology.

Weaved with Structure and Methods is the "Thesis' Management". It is here set a high emphasis on the "adventure" of being a research student. It is addressed how to get started, get through revisions, face deadlines and how to regulate the workload. The issues of working with supervisors, the varied stakeholders (comprising the ones of industrial Ph.Ds.), academic peers and the final examiners, is treated. The topic of dissemination along and after the Ph.D. is also debated.

The course offers a cohesive approach that will help PhD students succeed in their academic path.

Course-related learning outcomes

Knowledge

A PhD student who graduated from doctoral school knows and understands:

1) global achievements, covering theoretical foundations as well as general and selected specific issues that are relevant to scientific disciplines studied at the doctoral school, to the extent that enables revision of existing paradigms, [P8S_WG/SzD_W01]

2) scientific research methodology in disciplines represented at the doctoral school, [P8S_WG/SzD_W03]

3) principles of promoting scientific activity results, also in an open access mode, [P8S_WG/SzD_W04]

4) economic, legal, ethical and other vital conditions related to scientific activity. [P8S_WK/SzD_W06]

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Skills

A PhD student who graduated from doctoral school can:

1) use the knowledge from different branches of science to creatively identify, formulate and to innovatively solve complex problems or to execute research tasks in particular:

- define the aim and subject of scientific research, form a research hypothesis,

- develop research methods, techniques and tools and use them creatively,

- draw conclusions on the basis of research results, [P8S_UW/SzD_U01]

2) critically analyze and asses scientific research results, work of experts and other creative activities together with their contribution into knowledge development, [P8S_UW/SzD_U02]

3) communicate on specialist issues on the level that allows active participation in the international scientific community. [P8S_UK/SzD_U04]

Social competences

A PhD student who graduated from doctoral school is ready to:

1) critically assess the achievements within a given scientific discipline, [P8S_KK/SzD_K01]

2) critically evaluate their own contribution to the development of a given scientific discipline, [P8S_KK/SzD_K02]

3) acknowledge the importance of knowledge in solving cognitive and practical problems. [P8S_KK/SzD_K03]

Methods for verifying learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Learning outcomes presented above are verified as follows:

PQF code	Methods for verification of learning outcomes	Assessment criteria
W01, W03, W04, W06,	Presentation of the structure of individual doctoral dissertations. Analysis and discussion of the key parts of the course related to the areas of knowledge	The assessment is based on students' ability to present their thesis structure and manage its part
U01, U02, U04,	Presentation of the structure of individual doctoral dissertations. Analysis and discussion of the key parts of the course related to the areas of skills	With reference to the specific criteria
K01, K02, K03,	Presentation of the structure of individual doctoral dissertations. Analysis and discussion of the key parts of the course related to the areas of social competences	With reference to the specific criteria

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Programme content

1. Entering the academic world. Academic Keywords. Manage the Structure of Thesis and its Parts. Focus on the foundations: Intro-duction and Research Goals
2. A closer look into your thesis Core and Synthesis. Principles of good academic writing, and a guide to scientific production along the PhD.
3. Methodology: a focus on the art of fostering Research Methods
4. Writing, Viva, Attributes of a Successful thesis. Other Academic Ac-tivities along with the PhD, Time and Energy Management, Manage-ment of relation to the thesis stakeholders. PhD Structure and Table of Contents presentations and final de-bates.

Teaching methods

Lecture: multimedia presentation including illustrations and examples.

Bibliography

Basic

1. Groat, Linda N, David Wang. 2002. Architectural research methods. New York: J. Wiley.

2. David Evans, Paul Gruba, Justin Zobel, 2016. How to Write a Better Thesis. Springer

3. Peter Farrell, Fred Sherratt, Alan Richardson. 2016. Writing Built En-vironment Dissertations and Projects: Practical Guidance and Exam-ples, 2nd Edition. J. Wiley.

4. Petre, Marian, and Gordon Rugg. 2010. The Unwritten Rules of PhD Research. 2 edition. Maidenhead: Open University Press.

5. Tanggaard, Lene, and Charlotte Wegener. 2016. A Survival Kit for Doctoral Students and Their Supervisors: Traveling the Landscape of Research. 1 edition. SAGE Publications, Inc.

Additional

more reference given along the course

Breakdown of average student's workload

	Hours	ECTS
Total workload	25	1,0
Classes requiring direct contact with the teacher	4	0,2
Student's own work (literature studies, project preparation) [1]	21	0,8

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[1] delete or add other activities as appropriate