EL7035 Dissertation Lectures

Session 1

*Title, Focus and Research Questions*

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The 4 sessions

**Thursday 24/05/2018**
EL7035 Session 1  *Title, Focus and Research Questions*

**Thursday 31/05/2018**
EL7035 Session 2  *The Literature Review and the Research Gap*

**Thursday 07/06/2018**
EL7035 Session 3  *The Methodology Section*

**Thursday 14/06/2018**
EL7035 Session 4  *Discussion and Evaluation*
Today

- focus
- title
- research questions
- organisation (contents page)

**Topic and focus...**

The topic of your dissertation should be:

[narrow] and not [broad]
narrow...

- specific concept
- specific context (geographical, institutional)
- specific time
- ...

narrow or broad?

1. Environment and trade
2. An Examination of Shareholder Verses Stakeholder Argument in Relation to Corporate Governance
3. Hate crime
4. Terrorism and the media
5. On Interpreting Chinese Proverbs into English in Diplomatic Settings
6. The Human Right to Food as a fundamental right: The case of food politicisation in Zimbabwe
7. The forensic applications of DNA
8. The duties of the buyer in online sales transactions
9. Brexit
10. Market regulation in Jordan

EL7035 Dissertation Lectures Session 1
Your dissertation....

What is the broad topic of your dissertation?
What is your narrow focus?

The title...

1. Determinants of Capital Structure: Empirical Evidence from Firms Listed in China
2. The relationship between pay and performance in small-medium enterprises: A case study of a small food company in Malta
4. On Interpreting Chinese Proverbs into English in Diplomatic Settings
Language...

- Statement not question
- noun phrases

noun phrase : noun phrase

colon

Language...

Exploring the impact of ..... on ....
Evaluating the role/significance of ..... in ....
An analysis of the ..... in the context of....

... the effectiveness of ...
... the suitability of ...
... the relevance of ...
... the appropriateness of ...
... the significance of ...

... in terms of ...
... with reference to ...
... in the context of ...
... in relation to ...
... with regard to ...
... between ... and ...
... from ... to ...
Write down...

Research questions
- direct questions
- specific, clear
- short – one idea at a time
- evidenced
- can be identified, measured, tested and/or evaluated

Operationalise key concepts

*effectiveness, success, fluency*
Language

- Do….?

e.g. An analysis of the relationship between intrinsic motivation and student success on a presessional course in the UK.

What motivates students? Which of those factors are intrinsic?
How is success measured?
Do highly motivated students achieve better grades in tests?

Research questions

Now turn your title into one or two research questions.
Remember that these need to be measureable or evaluable in some way.
Can you find dissertation titles in your subject area?
Which have a clear and specific focus?

Organisation:

**table of contents**

TASK (see handout):
Read the title and the Table of Contents.
Can you work out what the student’s argument is?
Thesis statement

“This dissertation will argue that despite the many arguments against commercialising the body, there is a system of commercialising that will provide more good than bad in the utilitarian point of view.”

Sadiq-Soneye, Moyosore 2014

Tips...

- The Table of Contents
  - should be clearly organised and numbered
  - can suggest your argument
  - must match your headings
# The 4 sessions

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