

PhD Program

Course Outline

RSM3080: Research Methods in Business

Fall & Winter & Spring 2016/2017

Course Meets: Friday, September 9th, 2016, 1pm-4 pm, Introduction
Thursday, September 15th, 2016, 3:30pm-5:30 pm, Strategy Seminar
Wednesday, October 5th, 2016, 10:30am-12:30pm, Accounting Seminar
Friday, December 2nd, 2016, 2:00pm-3:30pm, Operations Management Seminar
Monday, December 5th, 2016, 4:10pm-6pm, Business Economics Seminar
Friday, March 10th, 2017, 10:30am-12:30pm, Finance Seminar
Friday, March 17th, 2017, 10:30am-12:30pm, Marketing Seminar
Wednesday, April 19th, 2017, 11:30am-1:30pm, OBHRM Seminar
Wednesday, April 26th, 2017, 1:00pm-5:00pm, Student Presentations

Organizer: Stéphane Côté, Room 6015, Rotman
E-Mail: scote@rotman.utoronto.ca
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Scope and Mission

Besides a firm grounding in their core discipline, PhD students in management also benefit from awareness of the multidisciplinary character of research in management, and connections to standards of scientific inquiry across the disciplines. First, this course seeks to complement students' disciplinary training by providing some guidance on developing research questions in management that make important contributions. Second, it provides opportunities for students to practice communicating the importance of their research questions to researchers in management disciplines. Third, it seeks to expose students to the variety of research questions and research methodologies across the topic areas that dominate research and teaching at schools of management.

Course Format

The course will have three basic components:

- a. A workshop delivered by Professor Stéphane Côté focused on developing research questions that are important to management.
- b. A series of visits to regularly scheduled area research workshops, each followed by a debriefing session. The goal is to schedule these roughly once per month.
- c. A workshop in which PhD students from each area identify and evaluate the character of major research questions in their management discipline.

Required Readings

Students should read the following article prior to the first session on September 9th:

Locke, K., & Golden-Biddle, K. (1997). Constructing opportunities for contribution: Structuring intertextual coherence and “problematizing” in organizational studies. *Academy of Management Journal*, 40, 1023-1062.

Papers for the area research workshops will be available from the area administrators prior to the talks. Please make sure that you review the material before the seminar.

Evaluation and Grades

The course is required of all PhD students and is being offered on a credit/no-credit basis.

Successful completion will require regular attendance, presentation of a research question during the last session of the course, and preparation of 3-5 pp. assignment on a research question. The details for this assignment appear on the last page of this syllabus.

Weekly Schedule

Details of workshop presentations can be found on the respective area workshop web sites.

Session	Date and Location	Topic
1	Friday, September 9, 2016 1:00pm-4:00pm, Room 127	<i>Developing Research Questions that Make Contributions to Management</i> Stéphane Côté
2	Thursday, September 19 th , 2016 3:30pm-5:00pm, Room 157 (After Session, 5pm-5:30pm, Room 133)	<i>Strategy Seminar</i> Isabel Fernandez-Matteo, London Business School
3	Wednesday, October 5 th , 2016 10:30-12:00, Room 142 (After Session 12pm-12:30pm, Room 147)	<i>Accounting Seminar</i> Michelle Hanlon, MIT
4	Friday, December 2 nd , 2016 2pm-3pm, Room 127 (After Session, 3pm-3:30pm, Room 142)	<i>Operations Management Seminar</i> Chris Tang, UCLA
5	Monday, December 5 th , 2016 4:10-5:30, Room 157 (After Session 5:30pm-6pm, Room 147)	<i>Business Economics Seminar</i> Steve Puller, Texas A&M University
6	Friday, March 10 th , 2017 10:30am-12:00pm, Room 147 (After Session, 12pm-12:30 pm, Room 147)	<i>Finance Seminar</i> Bob Parrino, University of Texas at Austin
7	Friday, March 17, 2017 10:30-noon, Room 133 (After Session, 12pm-12:30pm, Room 127)	<i>Marketing Seminar</i> Anita Rao, University of Chicago
8	Wednesday, April 19 th , 2017 11:30am-1pm, Room 1020 (After Session, 1pm-1:30pm, Room 1025)	<i>OBHRM Seminar</i> Paul Van Lange, Vrije Universiteit Amstersdam
9	Wednesday, April 26 th , 2017 1:00-5:00pm, Room 1035	<i>Student Presentations</i> Stéphane Côté

Assignment: Development and Communication of Research Question

In the first session of the course, we will cover tools to choose research questions that contribute to the literature. The goal of this assignment is to use the tools provided by the discussion and readings to develop and describe a research question about a topic that interests you. You should write a 3-5 page document that situates the research in the literature and identifies and motivates the research question.

In doing this assignment, you should follow the guidelines described by Locke and Golden-Biddle (1997) to represent and organize the existing knowledge on your topic and, in turn, signify the importance of your contribution.

More specifically, your assignment should have the following sections:

- a) A summary of existing knowledge on the topic. You should describe the literature by organizing the findings of at least five empirical studies. In organizing these studies, examine Locke and Golden-Biddle's (1997) description of the different types of intertextual coherence. Do not write it explicitly, but you should know which type of intertextual coherence (i.e., synthesized coherence, progressive coherence, or noncoherence) is reflected in your paper.
- b) A section that "problematizes the situation" and identifies your research question. In your paper, you should follow your description of the extant literature with one of the strategies of problematization described by Golden-Biddle (1997). Again, do not write it, but you should know which problematization strategy (i.e., incompleteness, inadequacy, or incommensurability) you are relying on. This section of your paper should identify your research question that seeks to advance the area of research to which you plan on contributing.

You will submit an e-copy of your assignment to Stéphane by **Friday, April 28, 2017**, at noon. The assignment should be at most five pages plus the references and any other supplementary materials. The format is double-spaced, with Times New Roman twelve-point font.

In addition, you will present your assignment in class during one of the last sessions of the course (the order of presentations will be randomly assigned). Presentations will be 20-minutes long, including Q&A.