

# Master's Thesis in Global Management (20 cr)

## SYLLABUS for Periods 3-5, 2023

Version 2023-01-16

Note: This is subject to change

Instructor's contact information	Course information
<u>Coordinator and contact person for the course:</u> Responsible teacher: Perttu Kähäri E-mail: perttu.kahari@aalto.fi Course assistant: TBA E-mail:	Status of the course: Advanced Academic Year, Period: III-V / 2022-23 Location: Language of Instruction: English Course Website: TBA

### 1. OVERVIEW

The objectives of the Master's Thesis course is that (i) students develop the skills necessary to produce a master's thesis of high academics standards, and (ii) complete a high quality thesis by the end of the first year of their Master's studies.

The course will consist of an introduction lecture, research seminars, and individual work. During the course, each student will work with (i) the faculty member in charge of the course, (ii) their thesis supervisor, and (iii) other students.

### 2. PREREQUISITES

It is strongly recommended that students enrolling for the Master's thesis course have completed or intend to participate in the methods course at the same time as they complete the course.

### 3. LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course introduces students to the Master's Thesis work by covering the fundamentals of the research process and requirements for a thesis. Upon successful completion of this course, you should:

- know what a good Master's thesis is;
- be able to independently develop a research proposal in the area of your specialization; and
- be able to conduct independent scientific research under supervision in a timely manner
- have completed a high quality thesis within the time plan of the course

### 4. ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

The course will consist of the following assignments:

- Assignment #1: initial research idea (10 Dec)
- Assignment #2: analysis and evaluation of an existing thesis (pass/fail) (10 Jan)

- Assignment #3: first draft of an individual research proposal (pass/fail) (24 Jan)
- Assignment #4: memo of the initial meeting with the thesis supervisor (pass/fail) (7 Feb)
- Assignment #5: final research proposal (pass/fail) (28 Feb)
- Assignment #6: oral and written constructive comments on proposals presented by other students (pass/fail) (7 Mar)
- Assignment #7: final thesis (grade 1-5) (29 May)

All assignments have to be completed to get a final grade for the course.

Note that turning in the assignments is considered the acknowledgement of guidelines on scholastic honesty and academic integrity (see section 9).

## 5. ASSIGNMENTS

### Assignment 1:

Develop an initial idea of what you would be interested in writing your master's thesis on. Focus on what you think would be an interesting research problem/question and the setting in which you might carry out the study. State also whether you would prefer to write the thesis individually or together with a fellow student. You may write assignment 1 jointly with another student in case you intend to write your master's thesis together. NOTE: no references are necessary. (200-400 words)

### Assignment 2:

Analyse and evaluate an existing thesis relevant to your topic/methods/interests/ in terms of what was good and how the thesis could have been improved. First describe briefly the study (200-300 words). Then verbally evaluate it using the Master's Thesis Evaluation Rubric as your evaluation tool, writing a qualitative analysis of thesis (300-500 words). In the end reflect what you learned from reading this (and other) theses. (200-300 words) The rubric can be found in the materials folder. In your analysis, give your own personal view of how you think this thesis would be different if it was a 20cr thesis.

### Assignment 3:

You are strongly encouraged to meet at least once with another student while working on assignment 3: The development of a preliminary research proposal for your Master's thesis.

The research proposal should include your research problem, research question(s), research setting, key conceptual definitions, and ideas concerning your theoretical framework, and preliminary data collection and methodological choices (more detailed instructions in the materials folder). Make sure you follow academic writing standards in writing the text, i.e. make sure that you do not make claims without references i.e. every concept you use/claim you make regarding literature needs to be supported by reference(s). The length of the proposal is 800-1000 words excluding references.

NOTE: Supervisors will be appointed after assignment 3 has been submitted. After you have been notified of your supervisor, contact your supervisor immediately to be able to return assignment 4 on time.

### Assignment 4:

Contact your supervisor and present the first draft of the research proposal to her/him. Then write a brief memo in which you summarize your takeaways from the meeting and email it to your supervisor. (200-400 words)

### Assignment 5:

Write a full-length research proposal in which you have incorporated the feedback from the supervisor and others (you are encouraged to discuss your work with other students). The length of the proposal is

3,000-4,000 words excluding references (i.e. approximately 10-12 pages). Instructions for writing the proposal can be found in the materials folder.

Please also prepare a power point presentation to be used during the research seminar where you present your proposal. (1) upload the research proposal and the power point presentation to the MyCourses return box and (2) email it to your supervisor as well as the other students in your Master's thesis group.

#### **Assignment 6:**

The research proposals will be discussed in research seminars in groups of approximately 4 (or 5) students. You will be allocated one student, for whom you will serve as the main discussant during the research seminar but you will be expected to read everybody's research proposal and be prepared to offer constructive feedback during the seminars. The discussant is expected to also provide written feedback to be given directly to the student(s) in question.

#### **Thesis work**

Meet with your supervisor every 2-3 weeks. The meeting dates should be agreed in advance and incorporated in your thesis proposal (Assignment 5). For each meeting agree with your supervisor on the material that you are to send your supervisor by email ahead of the meeting.

You will also meet with your research seminar group twice during this time. For these sessions you will need to submit a short pre-reading (max 10 pages) and make a presentation of the current status of your work.

#### **Assignment 7:**

Submission of your final Master's thesis. Your supervisor will give you a permission to submit.

#### **Technical instructions for all the assignments**

Please use:

- Times New Roman 12
- line spacing 1,5
- margins 2,5
- Harvard referencing system <http://libweb.anglia.ac.uk/referencing/harvard.htm>

Please provide

- your name, student number, assignment number and the word count on the first page of your assignments

#### **6. READINGS**

- Instructions for writing a Master's thesis (available on MyCourses)
- Articles relevant for your topic.
- A master's thesis approved at Aalto Biz for the assignment 2.

## 7. SCHEDULE

### THESIS SEMINARS

Monday 16 January, 2023 from 16.15-18.00 (T004)

Monday 30 January, 2023 from 16.15-18.00 (T003)

### ASSINGMENT DUE DATES

Assignment 1: December 10, 2022

Assignment 2: January 10, 2023

Assignment 3: January 24

Assignment 4: February 7

Assignment 5: February 28

Assignment 6: March 7 (approximate date, varies across research seminar groups)

Assignment 7: May 29, 2023

## 8. COURSE WORKLOAD

Assignments	540 h
Total	540 h (20CR)

## 9. ETHICAL RULES

Aalto University Code of Academic Integrity and Handling Thereof

<https://into.aalto.fi/display/ensaannot/Aalto+University+Code+of+Academic+Integrity+and+Handling+Violations+Thereof>

In Finnish:

<https://into.aalto.fi/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=1183861>