# TIK4040:

**Research and Design Seminar – Spring 2012** (Teaching schedule and reading lists)

Course coordinator: Jarle Moss Hildrum

**Course description**

The aim of this module is to provide the students with the methodological knowledge necessary to write a high-quality thesis on time. Writing a successful thesis within the set deadline of the ESST and TIK courses requires much organisation and preparation on the part of the student. The lectures and seminars in this course should enable the student to start reviewing relevant literature, gathering empirical material and to turn this material & literature into a thesis. An important objective of the module is to build students’ confidence that they can work efficiently on their thesis project and enjoy the process. The course is structured in three parts: 1) research methods and strategies, 2) practical application of research methods and 3) small group supervision of individual thesis projects. During the module, the students will submit two written documents: a preliminary half-page description of the thesis project (week 5) and a full thesis outline (week 12). The full thesis outline will be subject to a formal evaluation that the students have to pass in order to proceed with the course.

#### Deadlines and deliverables:

February 10th: Preliminary thesis outline

March 26th: Full thesis outline and essay describing key literature

Part 1) Research methods and strategies: How to find a clear-cut research question, choose appropriate methods and write a successful master thesis on time

#### Week 5 (30.1-5.2):

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| Date/time | Lecturer | Title | Readings |
| Monday January 30th  1315-15.00 | Hildrum | Introduction: expectations, methods and strategies.  Converting an idea into a clear-cut thesis strategy | Ragin (1994), chapter 1 |
| Tuesday February 31th  9.15-11.00 |  |  |  |
| Wednesday February 1st  0915 - 11 | Hildrum | How to write a full thesis outline and get started with the thesis work |  |
| Thursday  February 2nd |  |  |  |
| Friday  February 3rd |  |  |  |

#### Week 6 (6.2-12.2):

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date/time | Lecturer | Title | Readings |
| Monday February 6th  9.15-11.00 |  |  |  |
| Tuesday February 7th  9.15-11.00  1315 -1500 |  |  |  |
| Wednesday,  Feb. 8th  0915 -1100  13.15-15.00 | Hildrum  Hildrum | Constructing a successful master thesis based on case studies I  Constructing a successful master thesis based on case studies II | Yin, chapters 2 – 6, Ragin chapters 4 & 5 |
| Thursday  Feb. 9th |  |  |  |
| Friday  Feb. 10th |  | \**Deadline for submission of preliminary thesis outline* |  |

#### Week 7 (13.2-19.2):

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date/time | Lecturer | Title | Readings |
| Monday February 13th |  |  |  |
| Tuesday  Feb. 14th |  |  |  |
| Wednesday  Feb. 15th  0915 -1100  13.15-15.00 | Kasa  Asdal | Interview techniques  Methods for text analysis | McCracken (1988), Kvale (2007)  Asdal (2011), paper copies will be distributed prior to lecture |
| Thursday  Feb. 16th |  |  |  |
| Friday  Feb. 17th |  |  |  |

Part 2) Small group supervision of individual thesis projects

The purpose of this part of the module is to help the students develop a good thesis project which is possible to carry out within the set deadline. During the supervision sessions, each student will give a brief (5 minutes) presentation of their preliminary thesis outline (based on handed in outlines). The students will get also get comments and suggestions from the class about how the outline can be improved. By the end of the module, the students will hand in a full thesis outline, which should include research questions, objectives, core literature, methods, thesis structure and time scale. Attendance is mandatory as all students are expected to contribute and support one another.

#### Week 8 (20.2-26.2):

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date/time | Lecturer | Title | Group session participants |
| Monday,20th  0915-1100  1315-1500 | Myklebust  Kasa | Small group supervision – STS specialization  Small group supervision – innovation specialization |  |
| Tuesday 21th |  |  |  |
| Wednesday  22th |  |  |  |
| Thursday  23rd |  |  |  |
| Friday  24th |  |  |  |

#### Week 9: (27.2.-5.3):

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| Date/time | Lecturer | Title | Group session participants |
| Monday 27th  1415-1600 | Kasa | Small group supervision – innovation specialization |  |
| Tuesday  28th |  |  |  |
| Wednesday  29th  0915-11 | Myklebust | Small group supervision – STS specialization |  |
| Thursday  1st |  |  |  |
| Friday, 2nd |  |  |  |

#### Week 10: (5.3- 11.3):

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| Date/time | Lecturer | Title | Group session participants |
| Monday 5th  1215-14  1415-16 | Myklebust  Kasa | Small group supervision – STS specialization  Small group supervision – innovation specialization | (helst ingen TIKere) |
| Tuesday 6th |  |  |  |
| Wednesday 7th |  |  |  |
| Thursday 8th |  |  |  |
| Friday 9th |  |  |  |

#### Week 11: (12.3-18.3):

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date/time | Lecturer | Title | Group session participants |
| Monday 12th  1215-1400  1415-1600 | Myklebust  Kasa | Small group supervision – STS specialization  Small group supervision – innovation specialization | Helst ingen TIKere |
| Tuesday 13th |  |  |  |
| Wednesday 14th |  |  |  |
| Thursday 15th |  |  |  |
| Friday 16th |  |  |  |

#### Week 12: (19.3-25.3):

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date/time | Lecturer | Title | Readings |
| Monday 19th |  |  |  |
| Tuesday 20th |  |  |  |
| Wednesday 21th |  |  |  |
| Thursday 22th |  |  |  |
| Friday 23th |  | Submission of full thesis outline and essay describing key literature.  Printed and electronic versions of the outlines and essays should be submitted to the TIK administration (Øystein) |  |

References on the reading list

Yin, R. K. (1994), *Case study research: design and methods.* Sage, Thousand Oaks, California

Ragin, C. C. (1994), *Constructing social research*. Pine Forge Press, Thousand Oaks CA.

McCracken, G. (1988) The long interview. Sage, Newbury Park, CA.

Kvale, S. (2007) *Doing Interviews*. Sage, London. (Chapters 4, 5, 8 and 9)

Midtbø, T. (2007) Regresjonsanalyse for samfunnsvitere. Universitetsforlaget, Oslo.

Hosker, I. (2008) *Starting Statistics: Data handling for beginners.* Studymates, Abergele, UK. (Chapter 5.)