A COURSE SYLLABUS – DOCTORAL SCHOOL

REGARDING THE QUALIFICATION CYCLE 2025/2026 TO 2028/2029

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT COURSE	
Course title	**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**
Name of the unit running the course	Rzeszów University Doctoral School
Type of course *(obligatory, optional)*	obligatory
Year and semester of studies	Year I, Semesters I-II
Discipline	**Economics and finance**
Language of Course	Polish language
Name of Course coordinator	**Dr Anna Barwińska-Małajowicz, Professor at the University of Rzeszów**
Name of Course instructor	**Dr Anna Barwińska-Małajowicz, Professor at the University of Rzeszów**
Prerequisites	Academic education at the master's degree level. Knowledge, skills and social competences related to the methodology of conducting scientific research, achieved at level 7 of the Polish Qualifications Framework in the discipline of Economics and Finance.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF COURSE
(100-200 words)

As part of the course 'Research Methodology', doctoral students will consolidate their knowledge, skills and social competences regarding the set of rules, procedures and techniques used in the research process applied in the scientific discipline of Economics and Finance. These include planning, conducting and analysing research with the aim of obtaining reliable and objective results. A key aspect in achieving this goal is the selection of appropriate research methods that will allow for an adequate solution to the research problem and confirmation or refutation of the hypotheses.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND METHODS OF EVALUATING LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning outcome	The description of the learning outcome defined for the course	Reference to learning outcomes for qualifications at Level 8 of the Polish Qualification Framework (PRK) (symbol)	Learning Format (Lectures, classes,...)	Method of assessment of learning outcomes (e.g. test, oral exam, written exam, project,...)
Knowledge: (no.)	***knows and understands***			
P8S_WG3	Knows, understands and uses specialist terminology used in the national and international scientific and professional environment in the scientific discipline of Economics and Finance, in which scientific research is planned.	**P8S_WG**	seminar	project, discussion

P8S_WG4	Has extensive knowledge of the applied research methodology in the discipline of Economics and Finance, using interdisciplinary research tools and techniques to obtain the most reliable and objective research results.	**P8S_WG**	seminar	written assignments, project
P8S_WK3	Has extensive knowledge of the possibilities of transferring the results of their scientific activity to the economic and social spheres.	**P8S_WK**	seminar	written assignments, project
Skills: (no.)	***is able to***			
P8S_UW1	Be able to use interdisciplinary knowledge to identify and practically solve research problems encountered by: defining the objective, subject and research hypothesis, creating innovative research methods, techniques and tools, and drawing conclusions based on the research results obtained.	**P8S_UW**	seminar	project, discussion
P8S_UK1	Actively conferring in the national and international scientific and professional community, sharing the results of their research work.	**P8S_UK**	seminar	written assignments, project
P8S_UO1	Through active participation in the national and international research community, participating in individual and team scientific projects, performing various roles in them.	**P8S_UO**	seminar	written assignments, project
Social competence: (no.)	***is ready to***			
P8S_KR1	Strengthen and develop the ethos of research/creative communities, including conducting scientific activities independently, taking into account the principles of intellectual property protection and the principles of public ownership of research results.	**P8S_KR**	seminar	project, discussion

LEARNING FORMAT – NUMBER OF HOURS						
Semester (no.)	Lectures	Seminars	Lab classes	Placements	other	ECTS
I	-	-	-	-	**30**	**3**
II	-	-	-	-	**30**	**3**
total:	-	-	-	-	**60**	**6**

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- traditional seminar;
- seminar with multimedia presentation;
- project;
- discussion.

COURSE CONTENT

Curriculum content of the course – topics for two semesters

Semester I:

1. The essence of scientific cognition, the role of scientific knowledge and scientific research paradigms.
2. Objectives, functions and types of scientific research, as well as ethical and legal aspects of conducting research.
3. Organisation and structure of the research process (in quantitative and qualitative research).
4. Formulating a research problem, setting research objectives and constructing hypotheses.
5. Thesis versus research hypothesis.
6. Selection of research sample, variables and indicators, and design of research methods, techniques and tools, including rules for their verification and standardisation.

Semester II:

1. Data analysis and interpretation of research results.
2. Development of a research project: selection of methods, measurements and formulation of conclusions.
3. Analysis of scientific text and development of a thematic concept for a scientific article.
4. Preparation of a scientific publication.
5. Criteria for distinguishing scientific from non-scientific knowledge.

COURSE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The course is taught in semesters I and II. After semester I, the course ends with a ZO1 grade, and after semester II, it ends with an E2 examination.

In order to pass the course after semester I, students must submit a report on the completion of the assignment. In order to pass the examination after the second semester, students must obtain at least 51% of the points from the written assignment.

In order to obtain a positive grade, a conversion factor is applied for the corresponding percentage of points obtained:

- up to 50% - unsatisfactory (the doctoral student is not making progress in scientific research, is not expanding their knowledge, is not studying the literature, is not participating in substantive discussions, is not fulfilling their scientific obligations);
- 51% - 60% - satisfactory (the doctoral student makes negligible progress in scientific research, expands their knowledge, studies basic literature, the discussion is limited to a narrow range of substantive knowledge, fulfils basic scientific duties);

- 61% - 70% - satisfactory plus (the doctoral student makes progress in scientific research, expands their knowledge, studies basic literature, participates substantively in discussions, fulfils their scientific duties);
- 71% - 80% - good (the doctoral student makes significant progress in scientific research, broadens their knowledge, studies basic and supplementary literature, participates substantively in discussions, fulfils all scientific duties);
- 81% - 90% - good plus (the doctoral student makes significant progress in scientific research, systematically expands their knowledge, studies basic and supplementary literature, participates substantively in discussions, fulfils all scientific duties);
- 91% - 100% - very good (the doctoral student makes significant progress in scientific research, systematically expands their knowledge, studies basic and supplementary literature as well as literature beyond the required scope, participates substantively in discussions, fulfils all scientific obligations);

TOTAL DOCTORAL STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THE EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES – NUMBER OF HOURS AND ECTS CREDITS

Activity	Number of hours
Scheduled course contact hours	**2 x 30 = 60 hrs.**
Other contact hours involving the instructor (duty hours, examinations)	**4**
Non-contact hours – student`s own work (preparation for classes or examinations, project, etc.)	**116 hrs.**
Total number of hours	**180**
Total number of ECTS credits	**6**

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Compulsory literature:	1. Babbie, E. (2013). *Podstawy badań społecznych*. Warszawa: [Wydawnictwo]. 2. Creswell, J. W. (2013). *Projektowanie badań naukowych: Metody jakościowe, ilościowe i mieszane*. Kraków: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego. 3. Hartley, J. (2008). *Academic writing and publishing: A practical handbook*. Routledge. 4. Stachak, S. (2013). *Podstawy metodologii nauk ekonomicznych*. Difin.
Complementary literature:	1. Apanowicz, J. (2005). Metodologiczne uwarunkowania pracy naukowej: Prace doktorskie, prace habilitacyjne. Warszawa: Difin. 2. Nachmias, C. (2001). Metody badawcze w naukach społecznych. Poznań: Zysk i S-ka Wydawnictwo S.C. 3. **SĘPIEŃ, B. (2022). ZASADY PISANIA TEKSTÓW NAUKOWYCH. DIFIN.**

*(1 ECTS POINT CORRESPONDS TO 25–30 HOURS OF TOTAL WORK BY THE DOCTORAL STUDENT REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THE INTENDED RESULTS)

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Date and signature of the Course instructor

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Approved by the Head of the Department or an authorised person