ACCT, ECON, FIN, FINP, GLST, MKT, MGT, RPS 4010 – Honors Thesis I
Course Outline

1. **Title Of Course, Course Number, And Credits:** Honors Thesis I, ACCT/ECON/FIN/FINP/GLST/MGT/MKT/RPS 4010, (cross-listed course, 3 credits)

2. **Course Description:** This is a cross disciplinary course that represents the first part of a 6-credit Honors Thesis, which must be conducted over two semesters and undertaken in the junior or senior year. It will be a core component of the Honors Thesis option.

3. **Course Prerequisites:** ECON 2100, ECON/MGT 2110, FIN 3200, and MGT 3550

4. **Course Objectives:** The course comprises of two parts: (a) a pedagogy relating to research methods in business and (b) development and presentation of a research proposal.

   In the first part of this course students will cover topics relating research methods, theory building, and refresher on relevant analytic techniques and proposal writing. Students will also learn to review and critique professional writing. The goal is to help Honors students develop critical thinking skills and analytical capabilities that will help them execute an intensive and original research project in the subsequent semester.

   In the second part of this course students will choose a suitable topic for their Honors Thesis. They will be required to develop a research proposal that identifies basic research questions, includes a sufficient literature review, and provides a detailed plan of research including timeline for completion. The Honor Thesis proposal will be supervised by a mentor chosen from the Cotsakos College of Business Academically Qualified (AQ) faculty members. Student will present their proposals in a Research Day forum organized by the college.

5. **Topical Outline**
   - Research and scientific investigation (especially its relevance to the Business Research)
   - The broad problem area, preliminary data gathering, problem definition
   - Theoretical framework hypothesis development
   - Elements of research design
   - Experimental design
   - Measurement of variables: operational definition and scales
   - Measurement: scaling, reliability, validity
   - Data collection methods and sampling
   - Data analysis and interpretation

6. **Student Learning Outcomes:**
   - Ability to read and understand papers that use empirical methods such as statistical analysis and qualitative research methods
   - Ability to design research that involves instruments design, data collection, and data analysis
• Ability to write a proposal for research that can be submitted to an academic body or a granting institution
• Appreciation of theoretical issues related to research methodology
• Specific understanding of the needs of empirical research in business disciplines

Method Of Student Assessment: Student achievement will be assessed using a combination of review assignments, classroom discussions, presentations, and thesis proposal. Students will need to achieve at least B in this course to pass it.

7. Proposal Paper Structure And Format:
   a) Cover page with the following information:
      • Student name & date
      • Advisor’s Name
      • Thesis Title
   b) Research objective (2 page)
      • Main objective of the thesis (what is the goal?)
      • Research significance (why is it important?)
      • Questions needed to be answered
   c) Research background (3 pages):
      • Literature review
   d) Research method and procedures (1 pages)
      • Sampling and measurements to be used
   e) Results and implications (2 page)
      • What are the expected results?
      • Why are they important?
      • Who will benefit from these results?
   f) Timeline for the following sections (1 page)
      • Literature review
      • Data collection & analysis
      • Write up, advisor’s feedback, revisions, and final submission
   g) Cited sources/references (APA style)


9. Additional Reading Materials: Existing library resources will be utilized for proposal’s literature review