**RESEARCH PAPER IN THE COURSE**

**‘BUSINESS AND NATURAL RESOURCES RIGHTS’**

**OBJECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH PAPER**

The goal of writing the research paper is to produce a piece of work that demonstrates the ability of the student to undertake analysis of the subjects addressed in the research paper, and to organise the findings of the performed research in a comprehensive and logically structured document.

As general guidelines, the following should be observed:

* write coherent text which demonstrates that you are able to orient yourself in a given topic and communicate it to others;
* perform a review of both literature and practice that includes an analysis of the thoughts and opinions found in the sources;
* do not make the scale of research or analysis excessive, compared to the size of the research paper;
* avoid purely descriptive topics.

**FORMAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE RESEARCH PAPER**

1. **Length**

The course paper should be appox. 3500-4000 words of main text (excluding title page, summary, table of contents, footnotes, bibliography and appendices). Substantial deviations from this norm should require approval from the course responsible.

1. **Language**

The English language level must meet academic standards, expected of educated users of English. Although the use of the English language is not graded, spelling mistakes and an inappropriate use of the language will be taken into consideration

If British English is the language of choice, it should be consistently used throughout the thesis. The same applies for American English.

1. **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is explicitly forbidden and may result in severe penalties. Plagiarism is defined as passing off the work of others as your own without proper acknowledgement of the source and without the proposer marking the text with quotation marks. Please make sure that you follow the rules of proper citation in order to avoid potential problems in this regard.

1. **Structure of the research paper**

The author of the paper must formulate requarch question(s) and clearly answer them at the end of the paper. Alternatively, the paper may rather attempt to clarify the state of the research topic. In this case, it is important that the researcher goes beyond a merely descriptive approach and adopts an analytical perspective on each element of the research topic.

**POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR THE RESEARCH PAPER**

Some examples of the course paper topics may include:

* A critical analysis of legislative measures adopted to improve the access to natural resources;
* Examining the tension between the access to natural resources and business interests: a case of *(country to be chosen by the student);*
* Indigenous peoples and corporations: ways to ensure meaningful dialogue;
* Examining the practice of participation agreements in Australia;
* The voice of indigenous peoples: a critical comparison of *(country 1 to be chosen by the student)* and *(country 2 to be chosen by the student);*
* The role of indigenous peoples in combating climate change;
* The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the indigenous communities;
* A multi-dimensional look at the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: advantages, disadvantages and the global reaction.

Alternatively, students may formulate their own research paper topics. In that case, the topic needs to be confirmed by the course responsible.