Course syllabus

School of Business and Economics

3FEI018
Classical research and the research front in Business Administration, 10 hp

Main field of study
Business Administration

Subject Group
Business Administration

Level of classification
Doctoral course

Date of Ratification
2017-05-17

Prerequisites

Each student should be accepted as a doctoral student in business administration, or related subjects.

Expected learning outcomes

Upon finishing the course, the students will be able to:

- demonstrate broad knowledge and understanding into classic readings and part of the research front of the different fields of business administration.
- demonstrate deep knowledge and understanding into different theoretical and methodological frameworks/approaches in business administration.
- understand, and on an advanced level critically scrutinize, central theories, early contributions, and debates in different fields of business administration research.
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate research problems based on theoretical assumptions in different fields of business administration.
- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as review and assess complex business administration phenomena and issues independently and critically.
- understand, and on an advanced level critically reflect upon and value, different theoretical and methodological possibilities,
limitations, similarities and differences within the tradition of business administration research.

Course content

Business Administration can be divided into several sub-fields. The purpose of this course is twofold: 1) to provide the students with broad and deep knowledge of key theories and issues within the research of each sub-field, 2) to discuss differences as well as possible relations and synergies between the sub-fields.

Course design: Each teacher identifies literature that represents the key theories and issues in their sub-field. This literature doesn’t have to be “classics”. The important thing is that the literature has had a substantial impact on the research in the sub-field or represents key theories in a comprehensive way. In addition to the classical literature, each teacher also identifies articles that represent the research front in each sub-field. The articles are preferably related to each teacher’s own research.

Each teacher holds a two 4-hour seminar (one related to the classic literature and one related to the research front literature) with the PhD-students, where the literature is discussed.

Teaching methods and language

The course is taught in the form of lectures and seminars. Active participation in the seminars is obligatory. Each gathering starts with that the responsible for the sub-field presents why this literature was chosen. Thereafter the literature is discussed and analyzed. It is expected that the participants have read and hand in a 2-page written reflection on the contemporary literature. The seminar leader ends each gathering with a reflection upon what has been discussed.

Language of instruction: English.

Assessment methods

The course is examined through paper writings on the literature related to each seminar together with a final course paper connected to the doctoral student’s individual thesis project. Maximum word count for the final paper: 3500 words. The aim of the paper is to identify interesting fusions and cross-fertilizations between the sub-fields and the literatures on the course, and discuss how these can be used in the student’s own research project.
The grading is based on the scientific quality of papers written by the student and the participant’s ability to actively participate in the discussion during the lectures and seminars. In normal case, the course coordinator will mark the papers. However, there may be cases where the topic is too far from his/her area of expertise. In such cases, he/she may consult the teacher who is an expert in the field.

The course will be graded Fail or Pass.

Course evaluation

The course is evaluated through discussions with participants for continuous development. Entire course is evaluated through written evaluation and reflection.

Required reading

**Strategy** (responsible for the sub-field is professor Anders Pehrsson)

Classics (4 hrs seminar)


Frontiers (4 hrs seminar)


Researchers from the research group *International Strategy Studies* will participate.

**Marketing** (responsible for the sub-fields is professor Bertil Hultén and professor Hans Jansson)

**Consumer Marketing**

Classics (2 hrs seminar)


Frontiers (2 hrs seminar)


**International Business**

**Classics (2 hrs seminar)**

*General*


*By the Center for International Business Studies on Emerging Markets (CIBEM)*


**Frontiers (2 hrs seminar)**

*General*


*By the CIBEM and associated researchers*


Entrepreneurship (responsible for the sub-field is/are professor Malin Tillmar and professor William Gartner)

Classics (4 hrs seminar)


Frontiers (4 hrs seminar)


Kloosterman, Robert C. "Matching opportunities with resources: A framework for analysing (migrant) entrepreneurship from a mixed


**Organization** (responsible for the sub-field is professor Jon Andersen)

**Classics (4 hrs seminar)**


**Frontiers (4 hrs seminar)**

*How are organizations controlled?*


*How are organizations related to their environment?*


*Organization and organization theory for whom?*


**Management Accounting** (responsible for the sub-field is associate professor Elin Funck)

Classics (4 hrs seminar)


Frontiers (4 hrs seminar)


**Accounting** (responsible for the sub-field is professor Karin Jonnergård)


**Corporate Finance** (responsible for the sub-field is associate professor Christopher von Koch and professor Andreas Stephan)

Classics (4 hrs seminar)


Frontiers (4 hrs seminar)


