



COURSE SYLLABUS

Classics in Entrepreneurship, 2 credits

Classics in Entrepreneurship, 2 högskolepoäng

Course Code: FJCIE39	Education Cycle: Third-cycle level
Confirmed by: Utbildningsrådet Jun 14, 2016	
Valid From: Jan 1, 2019	
Version: 1	

Purpose

This course is concerned with the intellectual roots of entrepreneurship research. Scientific knowledge is cumulative in nature. Knowledge about the intellectual roots and history of the field provides an important foundation, which makes it substantially easier to understand the current debates in entrepreneurship and to contribute to these discussions.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

On completion of the course, the students will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate mastery of the core ideas put forward in entrepreneurship “classics” in economics, psychology, and sociology.
- Demonstrate a broad knowledge and understanding of how entrepreneurship classics have influenced current “conversations” in entrepreneurship research.

Skills and abilities

- Demonstrate the ability to understand, analyze and discuss classical contributions to entrepreneurship research.
- Demonstrate the ability to trace and evaluate the influence of classics on contemporary entrepreneurship research.

Judgement and approach

- Read and independently evaluate and analyze classical text as well as learned commentaries and modern works that implicitly or explicitly build on the “classics”.

Contents

The course is divided in three parts:

- The entrepreneur in economics
- The entrepreneur in sociology and psychology
- Modern classics

The first part deals with the work of Schumpeter and Kirzner because of their explicit presence

in current entrepreneurship research. But Entrepreneurship also has other foundations; in the second part we look at sociological and psychological “classics”. In the third part, we revisit some “modern classics” from 1988-1997 and discuss how older and more recent classics influence current entrepreneurship research.

Type of instruction

Class sessions will be devoted to reviewing and critiquing the readings associated with each session and to discussing the assignment submitted.

This course uses the three-step approach to learning: reading, writing, and discussing, with reflection and learning throughout the process. Students are expected to read and reflect upon the assigned readings prior to the session in which they will be discussed. As the goal of studying the readings is critical reflection rather than memorizing of contents, students shall also hand in written reflections prior to each session.

The teaching is conducted in English.

Prerequisites

Admitted to a doctoral programme in business administration, economics, or a related subject of a recognized business school or university.

Examination and grades

The course is graded Fail (U) or Pass (G).

The course examination consist of written hand-ins and active participation during seminars. The course will be examined in the following way:

- Written assignments fulfill ILOs 1-5.
- Attendance and active participation in discussions fulfill ILOs 1-5.

The grades are ‘pass’ or ‘fail’

Course evaluation

A course evaluation will be conducted at the end of the course.

Course literature

Baumol, W. J. 1990. Entrepreneurship: Productive, unproductive and destructive. *Journal of Political Economy*, 98(5): 893-921.

Davidsson, P. 2016. *Researching Entrepreneurship: Conceptualization and Design*, New

York: Springer.

Elliott (in Schumpeter, 1934)

Gartner, W. B. 1988. "Who is an Entrepreneur?" is the wrong question. *American Small Business Journal*, 12(4): 11-31.

Kirzner, I. M. 1973. *Competition and Entrepreneurship*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

McClelland, D. C. 1961. *The Achieving Society*. Princeton, NJ: Van Nostrand.

Schumpeter, J. A. 1934. *The Theory of Economic Development*. Cambridge: MA: Harvard University Press.

Shane, S., & Venkataraman, S. (2000). The promise of entrepreneurship as a field of research. *Academy of management review*, 25(1), 217-226.

Swedberg, R. 1991. *Schumpeter: a biography*. Princeton University Press Princeton, NJ.

Stuetzer, M., Obschonka, M., Audretsch, D. B., Wyrwich, M., Rentfrow, P. J., Coombes, M., ... & Satchell, M. (2016). Industry structure, entrepreneurship, and culture: An empirical analysis using historical coalfields. *European Economic Review*, 86, 52-72.

Wärneryd, K.-E. 1988. The psychology of innovative entrepreneurship. In: Raaij, W. F., Veldhoven, G. M., & Wärneryd, K. E. (Eds.). (1988). *Handbook of economic psychology*. Netherlands: Kluwer.

Weber, M. 1930/2002. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism and other writings*: Penguin.