

Classics in Entrepreneurship

Instructor: Per Davidsson, PhD
Entrepreneurship Professor
Email: pdavidsson@qut.edu.au

Course Description and Objective

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. In addition, it is very rewarding in and of itself to understand how a field develops and is shaped into its current form.

The first session deals with the work of Schumpeter and Kirzner because of its explicit presence in current entrepreneurship research. But Entrepreneurship also has other foundations; in the second session we sociological and psychological “classics”. In the third session, we revisit some “modern classics” from 1988-1997 and discuss how older and more recent classics influence current entrepreneurship research.

Course Structure

For each of the sessions, 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. Instructions concerning the hand-ins are provided in the below.

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

Hand-Ins

Each session you should answer specific questions in the format of a short paper (see course schedule and assignments below). If nothing else is indicated, the following instructions apply. Read the assigned readings carefully and thoughtfully. Prepare a paper addressing the assignment questions. The paper should be min. 2, max. 4 pages: Times New Roman 12, single spaced, with 1 inch margins.

N B! All assignments should be circulated to the instructor and the course participants at least 72 hours before the course starts.

Session Topics

Session1	Monday May 23 at 13.00-16.00, room B6046
Topic	The entrepreneur in economics: Schumpeter Mark I
Assignments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the most important things you like and do not like so much about Schumpeter's theorizing? 2. What are the most important things you like and do not like so much about Kirzner's (1973) theorizing? 3. What important similarities and differences can you see between Schumpeter's and Kirzner's respective views?
Readings	Elliott, Introduction to "transaction edition" of Schumpeter, 1934, sections I-III, pp vii-xxxviii Swedberg (1991), Chapter 2, section II pp 31-40 Schumpeter (1934), Chapter 2 Kirzner (1973) pp. 1-47 (Ch 1 and parts of Ch 2)

Session 2	Tuesday May 24 10.00-12.00, room B6046
Topic	The entrepreneur in sociology and psychology
Assignments	1. On the basis of the readings, sketch a proposal for a research project that would interest you
Readings	Wärneryd (1988) pp 212-218 McClelland (1961), Chapters 2, 6 Weber (1930), Chapter 2

Session 3	Tuesday May 24, 13.00-16.00, room B6046
Topic	Modern classics
Assignments	1. What traces of older and more recent classics can you identify in Davidsson (Forthcoming) and/or other present-day [conceptualizations of] entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship research?
Readings	Baumol (1990) Gartner (1988) Venkataraman (1977) Davidsson (Forthcoming), ch. 1-2 (not as "classic" but as basis for linking classics to the present as per hand-in 3)

Student Evaluation Criteria

Classroom Contribution	25%
Hand-In 1	25%
Hand-In 2	25%
Hand-In 3	25%

References:

- Baumol, W. J. 1990. Entrepreneurship: Productive, unproductive and destructive. *Journal of Political Economy*, 98(5): 893-921.
- Davidsson, P. 2004. *Researching Entrepreneurship*, 2nd ed. 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.
- Swedberg, R. 1991. *Schumpeter: a biography*: Princeton University Press Princeton, NJ.
- Venkataraman, S. 1997. The distinctive domain of entrepreneurship research. In J. Katz, & J. Brockhaus (Eds.), *Advances in Entrepreneurship, Firm Emergence, and Growth*, Vol. 3: 119-138. Greenwich, CT: JAI Press.
- 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.