

## COURSE SYLLABUS

# Doctoral course: Theoretical Perspectives in Family Business Research, 7.5 credit points

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Course code:  
Reviewed by: RFB  
Approved by: RFB  
Valid as of: 2022-11-09  
Version: I  
Reference number:

Education Cycle: Third cycle, doctoral program course  
Doctoral programme subject: Business Administration

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### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this doctoral course is to provide an overview of central perspectives (theories) and themes (issues) in the field of family business research. With perspectives we refer to important theories and conceptual frameworks that either have been applied in family business research or that harbor major promise to be applied in this field of research. We explore the trends that have been in focus in family business research so far – or that we see might become important over next years as the family business field grows further. The course should provide students with an enhanced scholarly understanding of family business research as well as active support in developing their own research project on family business topics. More generally, the intention of the course is to train students' capacity to act as critical, independent and reflective researchers in this field of research. The course is international in the sense that we will draw on theoretical perspectives, trends and topics of research applied in a variety of national and cultural context.

### **Intended learning outcomes:**

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

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

1. Present and critically discuss main theories and emerging conceptual perspectives in contemporary family business research.

#### *Skills and abilities*

2. Identify appropriate perspectives to construct a theoretical framework for a research project in family business.

#### *Judgement and approach*

3. Critically evaluate theoretical perspectives in the literature and discuss their appropriateness as applied to a specific research project in family business.

**Content:**

The students will learn and discuss about the main theoretical perspectives in family business research and explore the emerging trends in the field. The core of family business is the interaction between two systems: the family and the firm. The combination of these contexts leads to specific characteristics that we rarely see in other businesses, offering the unique opportunity to apply and extend conceptual perspectives and theories originally developed in other fields and disciplines. The family business field is also increasingly characterized by original efforts in theorizing new perspectives and exploring new themes, offering a challenging opportunity to both advance the field and disseminate its findings in the general debate in social sciences.

**Type of Instruction/Teaching format:**

The course is based on lectures and seminars. Students are required to take an active approach to their own learning. The course leaders will facilitate interaction and dialogue during the activities, but participants will have to spend time on reading, writing and reflecting before and after the seminars.

**Prerequisites:**

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

**Examination and grades:**

The course will be examined in the following way:

- Seminars attendance and active contribution to discussion, ILOs 1
- Course paper, ILO 2
- Peer-review of other participants' Course paper, ILO 3

All parts of the examination must be passed to achieve a grade in the course. The grades for the course are “pass” or “fail”.

**Course evaluation:**

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

**Literature:**

Literature provided by the instructors.