



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2008/2009

DRE 2009 Interorganizational Relationships

Program

Responsible for the course

Kenneth Wathne

Department

Department of Marketing

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

Language of instruction

English

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the area of interorganizational relationship research in marketing. As such, it will identify, review, evaluate and critique a variety of topics in the area of interorganizational relationship research.

The area of interorganizational relationships is rapidly becoming a broad field of study, and it is impossible to cover every topic and perspective in a single course. An attempt will be made to provide an understanding of some of the main theoretical paradigms in the area. Considerable emphasis will also be placed on strategies for conducting empirical research on interorganizational relationships.

Start: November 17 – November 21 and December 1 – December 5

Objective

Learning outcomes: The major objectives are to help students (1) understand the methods and perspectives employed in the area, (2) become a more sophisticated consumer of interorganizational research, (3) identify areas for future research activity.

This course is not intended to be a comprehensive review of the literature. The required reading list is purposely restricted to a limited number of papers in order to dig deeply into each paper. For students who are pursuing the interorganizational relationships area as an avenue for research, and for future reference, an extensive list of recommended readings will be provided.

On successful completion of the course all the students should be able to develop and communicate a theory that contributes to the theoretical knowledge in the area of interorganizational research and demonstrate how the theory can be tested empirically.

Prerequisites

It is assumed that every student is familiar with the general principles of research design, measurement, and multivariate statistical analysis.

Admission to a PhD Programme is a general requirement for participation in PhD courses at BI Norwegian School of Management.

External candidates are kindly asked to attach confirmation of admission to a PhD programme when signing up for a course with the doctoral administration. Candidates can be allowed to sit in on courses by approval of the courseleader. Sitting in on courses does not permit registration for courses, handing in exams or gaining credits for the course. Course certificates or conformation letters will not be issued for sitting in on courses

Compulsory literature

Other:

A complete list of articles and book chapters will be distributed during the first meeting. Articles will be selected from Journal of Marketing, Journal of Marketing Research, Journal of Consumer Research, Marketing Science, Administrative Science Quarterly, Academy of Management Journal, Academy of Management Review, Management Science, American

Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, Journal of Law, Economics and Organization, Journal of Law and Economics, Journal of Financial Economics, Bell Journal of Economics, Managerial and Decision Economics.

Recommended literature

Course outline

- Introduction to interorganizational relationships
- Methodological issues
- Theoretical paradigms
- Applications to marketing

A detailed schedule with specific course topics will be distributed during the first meeting.

Computer-based tools

None

Course structure

The class will meet every other day for two weeks. A set of required readings will be assigned for each meeting. Students are expected to thoroughly read and analyze all of the required readings prior to each meeting. Articles may be added during the semester. My own style is to combine some lecture time with discussion time. For each meeting, I will ask one or more students to prepare discussion questions for specific readings. Depending on the number of course participants students may be asked to prepare discussion questions for more than one meeting.

A maximum of five questions should be developed to address key issues discussed in each of the assigned readings and could seek to integrate the assigned readings with other topics covered in prior meetings.

A copy of the questions should be distributed to each of the course participants prior to the meeting (TBD). The discussion leader(s) will have the responsibilities of leading the discussion and summarizing and synthesizing the articles with some brief closing remarks.

To a large extent, the value of this course will depend on the students' level of preparation and participation in the discussion. Course credit will be given based on quality of class participation and a term paper (see Evaluation below). Sheer quantity of comments, with little depth or relevance to the focal issues, will not be rewarded (although presumably not punished).

If students have to miss class on a particular day, it is the students' responsibility to get notes from a classmate. Let me know as soon as possible if you have to miss a class.

During the semester, if students experience any problem(s) with the class or any of the classmates I expect the students to report any problem(s) that they are not able to resolve themselves to me as soon as possible.

Unexcused absence will result in a lower participation grade.

Evaluation

The course grade will be determined on the following basis:

- 40% - Course participation, including written reviews
- 40% - Term paper
- 20% - Presentation of paper idea and term paper

All parts of the evaluation must be passed in order to get a grade in the course.

Students will be required to write a term paper for the course. The term paper should be completed on an individual basis.

The paper should be original work, and be written specifically for this course. An overview of the paper idea/abstract (max 3 pages) is due approximately half-way into the course (TBD). The abstract should focus on what the students are proposing to do (versus what others have done or literature review).

Each participant will then present the research idea and receive comments from the other participants. To ensure an active discussion, each participant will be assigned at least one

abstract for written comments (not to exceed one page). The written comments on the abstracts are due approx. 2 days after the abstracts are submitted. The comments are confidential and will only be shared with the author. The objective of the reviews is to be helpful to the author - not to be judgmental (i.e., this should not be a review listing pages of inadequacies). Please follow the tradition of JCR's first editor (Bob Ferber), who felt that the "outside" reviewers' role is to see if the basic idea makes sense and whether it can be understood by an intelligent reader not in the author's immediate circle of friends, co-authors, etc. The purpose of this is to improve the translation and dissemination of knowledge.

The paper should be original work, and be written specifically for this course

The grade is on the ECTS scale.

The final paper is due 1 month after the last seminar meeting. No incompletes will be given. The specific format for this paper will be provided in class.

Individual Paper/Essay

The term paper must be submitted directly to the Doctoral Office in two paper copies - including a declaration form.

Evaluation code(s)

DRE 20091 for the final grade

Aids at the examination

Not applicable

Makeup exam

Next time the course is offered

Required readings

A complete list of articles and book chapters will be distributed during the first meeting. Articles will be selected from Journal of Marketing, Journal of Marketing Research, Journal of Consumer Research, Marketing Science, Administrative Science Quarterly, Academy of Management Journal, Academy of Management Review, Management Science, American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, Journal of Law, Economics and Organization, Journal of Law and Economics, Journal of Financial Economics, Bell Journal of Economics, Managerial and Decision Economics.

Recommended readings

An extensive list of recommended readings will be provided during the first meeting.

Honor Code

Academic honesty and trust are important to all of us as individuals, and they are encouraged and promoted by the honor system. This is a most significant university tradition. The honor system is the responsibility of students. As faculty, we share the commitment to the ideals of the honor system.

At no time should notes or papers or personal consultations based on previous semesters of this course be used. As part of the honor code papers handed in as part of the course is, at the discretion of the professor, scanned for plagiarism. We are using Safe Assignment in Black Board for this purpose. Any violation of the honor code will be dealt with in accordance with BI's procedures on cheating.

These issues are a serious matter to everyone associated with the program. They are at the heart of the Honor Code and academy integrity. If you have any questions about your responsibilities under the honor code, please ask.