



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2009/2010

EXC 3410 The Firm - Introduction Course

Programme

Bachelor in Business Administration (1. year)

Responsible for the course

Department

Department of Innovation and Economic Organisation

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

7,5

Language of instruction

English

Introduction

The course will give a broad elaboration of the main features of the firm's role in the economy. The firm's many facets in the national and international community will be presented through historical, ethical and theoretical perspectives. The course will present the political and philosophical traditions of the western hemisphere, which constitutes the foundation of the entrepreneurial firm and the market economy

Learning outcome

Acquired Knowledge

- Comprehend theories on the rise and development of the firm.
- Appreciate the historical development of the firm, with emphasis on the traditions underpinning today's firms.
- Attain knowledge and understanding of how a firm functions
- Understand how the firm's power base reflect different sources of legitimacy
- Contemplate on firm's in relation to innovation, development and crisis.

Acquired Skills

- Attain an ability to reflect upon the different roles of the firm in the economy.
- Be able to discuss moral and ethical dilemmas related to the firm.
- Understand the government's roles towards business and the firm.
- Assess different features of ownership and control related to the firm.
- To reflect in writing on the issues above.

Reflection

- Develop an awareness regarding personal integrity and civic responsibility.
- Reflect on the responsibilities of the firm, as well as the employees responsibilities.
- Consider the firm's role and place in society.
- Acquire a general understanding of the main ethical and moral dimensions related to the firm.

Prerequisites

No particular prerequisites are required.

Compulsory reading

Books:

Blackford, Mansel G. 2008. The rise of modern business : Great Britain, the United States, and Japan. 3rd ed. Chapel Hill, N.C. : University of North Carolina Press

Collection of articles:

Sverre Christensen og Knut Sogner. 2009. Compendium of Articles for EXC 3410 The Firm. Oslo: Handelshøyskolen BI

Recommended reading

Course outline

Regular lectures

1. Introduction

2. The firm's social responsibility and ethics
3. Why do we have firm's?
4. The creation of markets
5. Who owns the firm?
6. Who runs the firm?
7. How are firms created and developed?
8. The state and the firm.
9. Summing up.

Process activity

10. How to we write a course-paper with ethical perspectives?
11. How did we write the paper?
12. How did we handled the ethical question?

Computer-based tools

Blacboard

Learning process and workload

The lessons will be based on lectures, assignments, discussions and summaries of the assignments. Nine lectures will be given on the main subjects, and in addition three lectures will be devoted to the writings and discussions about the assignment. The assignment will be distributed trough Blackboard and must be written individually. After handed in electronic, students shall discuss each other s hand-ins in groups of 4-6 students and write a short report regarding what they learned from the assignment.

The report must be handed in electronic within a given deadline. The groups will be given the opportunity to meet with a tutor (ca. 10 -15 min.) to discuss issues in the report. Tutor will later on give a review in class.

Summary of the process:

1. Lectures about ethics and how to write
2. Hand in of individual assignment in Blackboard, 4-6 pages. (requirement)
3. Class will be divided in groups
4. Work in groups and writing of a report
5. Hand in of group report in Blackboard, 1-2 pages. (requirement)
Each member of the group must hand in the group report individually in Blackboard.
6. Opportunity to meet with tutor
7. Summarizing lectures about ethics and writing

Activity	Use of hours
Participation in class I	27
Preparation for class	12
Write course paper	40
Group work	12
Participation in class II	9
Individual study	97
Exam	3
Total use of hours recommended	200

Students are required to take part in all parts of the process.

Use of hours

Lectures 36
 Supervision of groups 5
 Administration 4

Examination

Requirements

Students must have handed in both the individual assignment and the group report in order to attend final exam.

Final exam is a three (3) hour individual written exam.

Exam code(s)

EXC 34101 - Individual written exam, counts 100% of final grade in EXC 3410 The Firm - Introduction Course.

Examination support materials

No aids are allowed.

See information in our web-based Student handbook about use of dictionary.
<http://www.bi.edu/studenthandbook/examaids>

Re-sit examination

Re-sit exam is held every semester.

Students that have not passed the course work requirement must retake the exercises at the next scheduled course.

Students that have not passed the written exam or who wish to improve their grade must retake the exam in connection with the next scheduled course.

Additional information