



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2011/2012

HIS 3410 The Firm

Programme

Bachelor in Arts and Management (1. year), Bachelor in Auditing (1. year), Bachelor in Banking and Finance (SF), Bachelor in Business Administration (1. year), Bachelor in Business Law (1. year), Bachelor in Entrepreneurship (1. year), Bachelor in Finance (1. year), Bachelor in International Marketing (1. year), Bachelor in IT-management (1. year), Bachelor in Market Communication (1. year), Bachelor in Marketing (1. year), Bachelor in Media Management and Journalism (1. year), Bachelor in Public Relations (1. year), Bachelor in Real Estate (1. year), Bachelor in Retail Management (1. year), Bachelor in Tourism Management (1. year), Bachelor of Science in Business (1. year), Foundation Program in Business Administration, Foundation Program in Marketeconomy

Responsible for the course

Knut Sogner

Department

Department of Innovation and Economic Organisation

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

7,5

Language of instruction

Norwegian

Introduction

The course provides a broad introduction to the main features of the role of firms in the economy. The versatility of firms will be presented in a broader social context with the aid of historical, ethical and theoretical perspectives. The course aims to educate participants through an introduction to broad historical developments in the Western world, focusing in particular on the foundations relevant for firms and the market economy.

Learning outcome

Acquired knowledge

- Familiarity with theories of why firms exist.
- Familiarity with the main features of the historical development of the firm, with an emphasis on understanding traditions underpinning the firms of today.
- Acquire knowledge with respect to the functioning of the inner life of firms.
- Understand how power structures in firms reflect different forms of legitimacy.
- Acquire knowledge of the significance of innovation, development and crises.

Acquired skills

- Be able to reflect on the role of firms in the economy in general.
- Be able to understand and reflect on the main features of the ethical and moral dimensions relating to firms.
- Be able to discuss situations involving moral dilemmas for firms.
- Be able to distinguish between the different roles and bases of ownership and leadership.
- Understand the many roles of the state vis-à-vis firms.
- Be able to reflect in writing on complex contexts.

Developed reflection

- Develop recognition of our personal responsibility as members of society.
- Develop recognition of the individual moral responsibility of both firms and employees.
- Develop recognition of the relationship between firms and society at large.
- Develop recognition of historical change and historical foundations, not least with respect to ethical and moral dimensions.

Prerequisites

None.

Compulsory reading

Books:

Micklethwait, John and Adrian Wooldridge. 2005. The company : a short history of a revolutionary idea. Modern Library. Paperback edition

Other:

Knut Sogner og Sverre Christensen. 2011. Kompendium for HIS 3410 Bedriften. Oslo: Handelshøyskolen BI

Recommended reading

Course outline

1. Introduction
2. The firm Ltd.
3. The firm and the three industrial revolutions
4. The problem of self-interest
5. The firm's social responsibility
6. Process: Ethical issues (Writing a paper)
7. Who runs the firm?
8. Process: Group discussions
9. Who owns the firm?
10. The firm and globalization
11. How are firms created and developed?
12. Innovation and society
13. The state and the firm
14. Process: Summing up
15. Summing up

Computer-based tools

No particular IT tools are used in this course.

Learning process and workload

The course consists of lectures, writing an assignment for submission and discussing and summarizing assignments. There are 9 course lectures based on the principal course components. In addition there will be 3 lectures in connection with writing a paper, about the group discussions and summing up. The assignment will be distributed via It's learning at the start of the course. The assignment is to be written individually, submitted electronically and then discussed in groups of 4-6 students. On the basis of group discussions of each other's assignments, students are to submit a presentationwrite a short report consisting of the following components:

1. What did the group learn from discussing the technical aspects of writing?
2. How would the group as a *whole* summarize the academic content of the question?

The group presentations are submitted individually and electronically, students can not submit on behalf of anyone else.

Summary of the process:

1. Plenary lecture on writing technique and ethics
2. Submission of individual paper on It's learning, 4-6 pages (mandatory)
3. Students are divided into groups and there is a lecture about the group discussions
4. Group work on writing presentation. The presentation must be submitted on It's learning. (mandatory)
5. The process is summed up by the lecturer.

Course work requirement

Students must submit both the individual paper and the group report on It's learning.

During the semester there will be 8 multiple-choice tests of which 5 must be approved in order for the student to sit for exam. It is a requirement that such a test is passed and that at least 30 % of the possible points are achieved. The students will be allowed three attempts before the deadline of the test. Information about the time period for the tests to be taken, will be given in the lectures and through It's learning.

Activity	Hours
Participation in lectures I	27
Preparation for lectures	18
Writing individual paper for submission	20
Colloquiums on academic papers	12
Participation in lectures II	9
Self- study and colloquiums	111
Examination	3
Total recommended use of hours	200

Students are required to participate in all parts of the process activities. Submission of individual papers and group presentation are registered on It's Learning.

E-learning

The e-learning platform It's learning is used by the e-learning centre to administrate the mandatory exercises, and make students able to communicate with each other and the lecturer. Module sessions are carried out at the beginning of the semester and before exams. The e-learning students are also offered a study guide which is an educational guide to the syllabus.

Recommended use of hours:

Activity	Hours
Lectures (weekends)	8
Prepare for lectures/reading literature	12
Write individual assignment	20
Exercises individually and in groups	12
Individual study, assignments and activities on It's Learning	145
Exam	3
Total recommended use of hours	200

Use of hours

Lectures 36
Supervising groups 2
Administration of the learning process 7

To teach this course the lecturers have to read a representative sample of individual papers and group submissions in their respective classes. Because the students submit their group presentations as power point-presentations, these may be used in the summing up lecture, but this has to be approved by the concerned students. We expect that the lectures in every class also do the initial control of possible plagiarism in their respective classes.

Coursework requirements

Students must submit both the individual paper and the group presentation (submitted individually) on It's learning. The students must have these approved before taking the examination. See Learning Process and Workload for further details. In addition the students have to pass 5 out of 8 multiple choice tests.

Examination

A three-hour individual written exam concludes the course.

Examination code(s)

HIS 34101Written examination, counts 100% towards an approved grade on the course HIS 3410 The Firm (7.5 credits).

Examination support materials

No examination support materials are permitted.

Re-sit examination

A re-sit exam is held every semester.

Students that have not passed the course work requirement must first retake the exercises in connection with 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

Colleges of Higher Education require the correct use of references in all academic work. [Link](#) to BI Library page on using citations and references is recommended for all students at BI Norwegian Business School.