



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2014/2015

ELE 3753 Multinational companies, responsibilities and development

Programme

Elective

Responsible for the course

Sverre August Christensen

Department

Department of Innovation and Economic Organisation

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

7,5

Language of instruction

Norwegian

Introduction

This course will give an historical introduction/overview to multinational companies (MNCs) and Globalization. A main topic for discussion is how MNCs have been understood and described; do they contribute to growth and development, or stagnation and exploitation. The course will particularly focus on the last 40 years, and will ask questions related to economic development and companies' responsibilities. An import aspect of the course is to look closer at Norwegian MNCs and their challenges related to the global value chains and social responsibility.

Learning outcome

Acquired knowledge:

After the course students should:

- Know the historical development of MNCs
- Have knowledge about different theories related to MNCs
- Know the important theories of Globalization and its driving forces
- Have knowledge of how and why MNCs have changed
- Know of the main theories on Globalization and its development
- Know of the main theories on MNCs' social responsibility

Acquired skills:

- After the course students should be able to:
- Reflect on MNCs and Globalization
- Reflect on MNCs, social responsibility and development
- Explain why and how MNCs and Globalization are changing
- Analyse written documents and theories in relation to the historical context
- Make written analysis of complex relations

Reflection

- Develop critical thinking related to MNCs and Globalization
- Develop a critical awareness related to MNCs and Globalization
- Develop clear views on how Globalization affects responsibility
- Develop a critical notion to Globalization and development
- Develop awareness of historical changes and historical perspectives related to MNCs.

Prerequisites

The student is expected to have completed HIS 3410 Bedriften (The Enterprise) or equivalent

Compulsory reading

Articles:

Ekberg, Espen & Even Lange. 2013. Business history and economic globalisation. Business history. 56 (1). S. 101-115. Kan lastes ned fra biblioteket

Kristen Bell DeTienne and Lee W. Lewis. 2005. The Pragmatic and Ethical Barriers to Corporate Social Responsibility Disclosure: The Nike Case. Journal of Business Ethics. Vol. 60. 17 sider. Kan lastes ned fra biblioteket

Other:

Sverre A. Christensen. 2014. Globaliseringens fortellinger. Pax. 40 sider. Kun et kapittel i boken er pensum, som kan lastes ned fra Itslearning

Recommended reading

Course outline

1. Introduction: Imperialism – Companies overseas and the Opium wars
2. The Great Divergence debate – why the Western Hemisphere come to dominate
3. What is fuelling Globalization? A comparative analysis of the first and second wave of Globalization
4. From business theories to Hymer's critical perspective on MNCs
5. Globalization friendly theories of multinational companies
6. Norwegian shipping industry : important drivers of Globalization
7. From horizontal to vertical DUI – global value chains
8. Case – *Norwegian MNC*
9. Sweatshops a blessing or a curse
10. The role of NGOs in Globalization
11. Case – *NGO*
12. China's development

Computer-based tools

The course does not require any special computer software.

Learning process and workload

Activity	Hours
Participating in lectures	36
Teacher assisted work groups related to visiting businesses	9
Lecture preparations	63
Self-study and group work	89
Exam	3
Recommended number of hours	200

Use of hours

Examination

A three-hour written individual exam

Examination code(s)

ELE 37531 written exam accounts for 100 % of the grade for the course ELE 3753 Multinational companies, responsibilities and development, 7.5 ECTS points.

Examination support materials

No examination support materials are allowed.

Re-sit examination

At the next ordinary exam

Additional information