Theoretical Perspectives in Contemporary Business Administration Research

Ph.D. course in Business Administration,
School of Business, Economics and Law
Gothenburg University

7.5 ECTS

Autumn 2012
Course objectives

The aim of this course is to provide PhD-students a general knowledge about common theoretical approaches, which have prominent positions within contemporary business administration research. All students should reflect upon the usefulness of these theoretical approaches with regards to own research work.

Course content

The course will cover a wide range of theoretical perspectives, which can be seen in the overview of the literature and the required reading listed below. This course provides a starting point for post-graduate studies in Business Administration, offering a deep reflection on theoretical perspectives, which have prominent positions within contemporary business administration research.

The course consists of two parts. The first part consists of seminars, led by a scholar with great experience of the approach. The students are supposed to read all the literature related to the seminar and to write a short report (1-2 pages) that reflects upon the related literature. The short report should include a couple of questions that the students want to address to the lecturer.

The second part is a seminar based on a presentation and a discussion of term-papers. The term-paper should include at least two of the theoretical approaches and it should be related to the students own PhD-project. The writer is supposed to present his/her paper and it should be discussed by two other students.

Examination

All students are supposed to attend and to be active at all seminars, and to write the short reports and the term-papers. The students may have to rewrite reports and term-papers in order to pass the course. Absenteeism and passivity will lead to extra assignments.

Responsible for the course: Ulla Eriksson Zetterquist – uez@gri.gu.se
Course coordinator: Peter Beusch – peter.beusch@handels.gu.se
Participating lecturer: Andreas Diedrich – andreas.diedrich@gri.gu.se
Course secretary: Petri Ruotsalainen - petri.ruotsalainen@handels.gu.se (you need to register to him)
Schedule

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<td>13-15, C35</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>PB and UEZ</td>
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<td>Sept 6</td>
<td>13-16, C35</td>
<td>Marketing and STS</td>
<td>Frank Cochoy</td>
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<td>Sept 13</td>
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<td>Critical theory</td>
<td>Mats Alvesson</td>
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<td>Oct 2</td>
<td>13-16, C35</td>
<td>Operations Mgm &amp; Supply Chain Network Theory</td>
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<td>Oct 4</td>
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<td>Human Capital Theory</td>
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<td>Oct 9</td>
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<td>MAMCA / Socio-Economic Theory</td>
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<td>Mid-term reflections/instructions turn-papers.</td>
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<td>Oct 11</td>
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<td>Contingency theory</td>
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<td>Oct 18</td>
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<td>Organizational culture</td>
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<td>Oct 25</td>
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<td>Institutional approaches in management &amp; organization studies</td>
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<td>Nov 23</td>
<td>8-17, GRI</td>
<td>Presentation of papers</td>
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Seminars and Literature:

Literature is to be read and reported **48 hours** before the seminar via E-mail to peter.beusch@handels.gu.se and ulla.eriksson-zetterquist@gri.gu.se. No reporting is needed in advance of the first meeting (introduction), however, please read the literature.

1. **Introduction**


2. **Performativity and ”market-things”** (Franck Cochoy)


3. **Critical theory** (Mats Alvesson)


4. **Operations Management and Supply Chain Network Theory** (Anna Nagurney)


5. **Micro-economical perspective/ Human capital theory** (Yitzhak Haberfeld)

6. **Economic theories including stakeholders within transportation** (Cathy Macharis)


7. **Mid-term reflections** (UEZ, AD)

8. **Contingency theory** (Jan Greve)


9. **Organizational culture** (Gideon Kunda)


10. **Institutional Perspectives in Management and Organization Studies** (UEZ)


11. **Presentation of papers** (UEZ, AD, PB)