

22025-V Strategic Thinking (SECTS)

Examiner: Eva-Lena Lundgren-Henriksson

Course Description

Strategic thinking in action involves the ability to identify relevant information, to formulate and develop rigorous reports, and to judge the outcome of the analysis. The analytical skills are essential when managing organizations in different situations and changing contexts. This course addresses strategic issues (such as competition, governance, internationalization, politics, culture, change) through cases and provides analytical tools as well as an in depth understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of different analytical methods in strategic management.

Learning Goal

You have the knowledge needed to investigate strategic issues in organizations. You have the skills required for strategic analysis. You have a comprehensive and critical overview of the theories of strategic management as well as some ideas how to apply these in your future work.

After completing the course, you will be able to

- master key concepts and principles in strategic analysis
- select appropriate tools for analysis and design set of rules for strategic decision making
- evaluate the quality of your analysis

International Learning Experience

The cases analyzed during the course explore organizations that operate in international environments.

Pre-requisites

Completed bachelor thesis in your major.

Total Student Workload

134 hours divided into

Scheduled (contact) hours: 20 h Non-scheduled work: 114 h

Literature and Course Material

Henry Mintzberg, Bruce Ahlstrand, Joseph, Lampel: Strategy Safari. **Note! Unfortunately, there is no e-version of the course book. Please check the availability of the book asap. Since there is a limited amount of books available at the libraries in Helsinki and Vaasa, the participants are particularly encouraged in Helsinki to also check the public library and/or the library of University of Helsinki.**

Case documents and other material given by the instructors.

Instruction and schedule

The seminars of this course are taught by Eva-Lena Lundgren-Henriksson (Vasa) and Paulina Junni (Helsinki). Together with the course readings, the material covered in the seminars provides the foundation for other elements of the course, including the case exercises, the assignments and the discussions in class. During the case seminars, we discuss participants' experiences with the case analysis and group work assignments. The discussion will be based on two key elements: (1) setting participants' experiences in relation to concepts and models introduced in the lectures and seminars and the course readings, and (2) learning from each other by comparing the interpretations and analysis conducted by different participants. This requires active participation from everyone.

Seminars (of which you can **only miss two** in order to pass the course):

1. Case: Honda. Theme: Competitive strategy vs. Finding grassroots (Eva-Lena Lundgren-Henriksson, Paulina Junni)
2. Case: Go global or no? Theme: Internationalization and growth (Eva-Lena Lundgren-Henriksson, Paulina Junni)
3. Case: Merge or not? Theme: Strategy formation as a process of negotiation (Eva-Lena Lundgren-Henriksson, Paulina Junni)
4. Case: Strategizing in a global pandemic. Theme: Strategy formation as a collective process of transformation (Guest Eleonor Hedström, Wärtsilä)

Date and time Online via Teams	Lecture/seminar	Theme/Strategy schools	Instructor
2.9, 14:15 – 15:45	Course introduction (in class room 236)		Eva-Lena Lundgren-Henriksson
6.9, 14:15 – 15:45	Introduction to strategic thinking (online lecture via Teams)	Strategy research – From strategic position to processes and practices	Eva-Lena Lundgren-Henriksson, Paulina Junni
9.9, 14:15 – 15:45	Case Honda (in class room 236 seminar)	Competitive strategy vs. finding grassroots – positioning and learning schools	Eva-Lena Lundgren-Henriksson
13.9, 12:30 – 15:45 Please note the time!	Case: Merge or not? A strategic role play (in class room 236 seminar)	Collective sensemaking and communication – The cognitive and the power schools	Eva-Lena Lundgren-Henriksson
20.9, 14:15 – 15:45	Case: Go global or no? (in class room 236 seminar)	Internationalization and growth/visioning strategy – the entrepreneurial and environmental schools	Eva-Lena Lundgren-Henriksson
23.9, 14:15 – 15:45	Case: Next Business - Strategizing in a changing world (seminar, in class room 236 with streaming to Teams)	Industry transformation and sustainability – the cultural and configuration schools	Eleonor Hedström, Wärtsilä
27.9, 14:15 – 15:45	Guest lecture (in class room 236 with streaming to Teams)	Implementing strategies in internationally changing contexts – the cultural, power and contingency schools	Teemu Helppolainen, YIT
30.9, 14:15 – 15:45	Guest lecture (in class room 236 with streaming to Teams)	Strategy work, mergers, and acquisitions	Janne Tienari
4.10, 14:15 – 15:45	Course summary		Eva-Lena Lundgren-

	(online lecture via Teams)		Henriksson, Paulina Junni
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Course assignments and assessment

Obligatory class participation in *case seminars*: maximum of 2 case seminar absence is allowed to pass the course. Please send a message to the examiner if you are absent. The *lectures* are not obligatory. It is however strongly recommended that the participants take part in the lectures in order to be able to ask questions and interact live. The seminars or lectures will **not** be recorded.

In order to pass the course, the student has to hand in all parts of the examination (progress report, group assignments and final assignment) and to get at least 50 % of the total examination.

Written assignments (100 %): There is one progress report (35 %), 3 group assignments (total 15 %), and a final assignment (50 %) to be handed in during the course.

Course participants are expected to prepare for the seminars by reading and analysing the case assigned for the seminar.

Progress report (35%): During the course the student writes a progress report (detailed instructions in Moodle). The deadline for the progress report is one week after the course's final lecture (11.10.2022 at 23:59).

Group assignments (3 assignments à 5 % each): The students work in assigned groups with specific assignments. The work is presented in a MS doc (detailed instructions in Moodle). This work is handed in to the teacher on assigned dates. All group members are equally responsible for the work and are assigned the same point.

Final assignment (50%): The final assignment is done during the exam week of P1 (15.10-22.10) submitted in Moodle (detailed instructions in Moodle).

Other information

All course communication and information will be available in and uploaded to Moodle.