

## **22025 Strategic Thinking (5ECTS)**

Examiner: Sorsa, Virpi

### ***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, and an intermediate course on strategy (e.g. 22021 Strategisk ledning or an equivalent course).

### ***Total Student Workload***

134 hours divided into

Scheduled (contact) hours: 18 h Non-scheduled work: 116 h

### ***Literature and Course Material***

Henry Mintzberg, Bruce Ahlstrand, Joseph, Lampel: Strategy Safari

Case documents and other material given by the instructors

### ***Instruction***

The seminars of this course are taught by Virpi Sorsa, Mikko Ketokivi, and Thach Huynh Bao. 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 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 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.

### ***Assessment***

Exam (50%)

Written assignments (50%)

In order to pass the course, you need to get at least 50 points of the total examination.