

Strategic Management

Ph.D. program in Economics and Management

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Aims of the course

This course provides a Ph.D. level survey on both seminal theory and recent developments in strategic management. We will examine contributions from different fields and theories: 1) Structure-conduct-performance, 2) Resource-based View, 3) Dynamic Capabilities. We will also consider issues related to publishing, with a particular emphasis on conceptual and empirical issues. This doctoral course has four primary objectives: (1) survey some of the major theoretical perspectives that bear on the topic of competitive strategy; (2) develop students' skills in appraising and critiquing academic research; (3) develop students' skills in arguing and presenting research issues and ideas.

Grading

The grading rates will be as follows:

- Presentations: 50%
- Final exam: 40%
- Participation (beyond your formal presentation): 10%

Presentations

ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE THOROUGHLY PREPARED ON ALL THE ARTICLES. However, as indicated in the program below from the second class onwards the articles are to be presented by two students to be designated on the first day of class. The presenters should present the key elements of the papers and provide a discussion of the papers. In particular it is the responsibility of the discussion leader to:

- present an in-depth oral assessment of the articles. What we desire is a scholarly appraisal of the items identified above, with special emphasis on the unique qualities that enhance or mitigate the contribution of the papers also in reference with the papers presented during the previous classes.
- prepare also a powerpoint presentation of the presentation. Please distribute hard copies to you classmates and instructor.

Students have also to write a research proposal (few pages) that applies one of the theories covered in the program. The proposal should contain also the empirical strategy to be adopted. The presentation will take place in the last class of the course.

Final Exam

On there will be a written final exam of the course that will be timed. It will consist of several questions relating to course material.

Class 1 – January 15th, 2pm-5pm Foundations of Strategy

Rumelt R.P., Schendel D.E., Teece D.J., 1991, Fundamental Issues in Strategy: a research agenda, Chapter 1, in *Fundamental Issues in Strategy*, Harvard Business School Press, Boston, Massachusetts

Class 2 – January 17th, 2pm - 5pm- Structure, conduct and performance

Schmalensee, R. 1985, "Do markets differ much?" *American Economic Review*, 75(3), 341–351
McGahan A.M., Porter M.E., 1997, "How much does industry matter, really?", *Strategic Management Journal*, 18 (Summer Special Issue), 15–30

Hawawini G., Subramanian V., Verdin P., 2003, "Is performance driven by industry or firm specific factors? A new look at the evidence", *Strategic Management Journal*, 24, 1-16

Class 3 – January 21th, 9am – 12pm - Resource-based view

Wernerfelt, B. (1984). 'A resource based view of the firm', *Strategic Management Journal*, 5, pp. 171-180

Peteraf, M., 1993, "The cornerstones of competitive advantage: A resource-based view", *Strategic Management Journal*, 14, 179-191

Barney J., 1991, "Firm resources and sustained competitive advantage", *Journal of Management*, 17, 99-121

Class 4 – January 23th , 2pm - 5pm - Resource-based view critiques and further developments

Priem R., Butler J., 2001, "Is the resource-based 'view' a useful perspective for strategic management research?", *Academy of Management Review*, 26, 22-40,

Barney J., 2001, "Is the resource-based view a useful perspective for strategic management research? Yes", *Academy of Management Review*, 26, 41-56

Barney J.B., Ketchen Jr, Wright M., 2011, The future of resource-based theory: revitalization or decline?, *Journal of Management*, 37, 1299-1315

Class 5 – January 29nd , 10am – 1pm - Dynamic Capabilities View

Teece D.J., Pisano G., Shuen A., 1997, "Dynamic capabilities and strategic management", *Strategic Management Journal*, 18, 509-533

Eisenhardt K., Martin J., 2000, "Dynamic capabilities: what are they", *Strategic Management Journal*, 21, 1105-1122 (Special Issue)

Peteraf M., DI Stefano G., Verona G., 2013, The Elephant in the Room of Dynamic Capabilities: Bringing two Diverging Conversation Together, *Strategic Management Journal*

Class 6 – February 1st , 3pm - 6pm - Dynamic Capabilities View: Evolutionary perspective

Winter, S. (2003). "Understanding Dynamic Capabilities," *SMJ*, 24(10), pp. 991-996

Zollo, M., & Winter S. G. 2002. Deliberate learning and the evolution of dynamic capabilities. *Organization Science*, 13(3): 339–351

Helfat, C. E. and Winter, S.G. (2011). Untangling Dynamic and Operational Capabilities: Strategy for the (N)ever-Changing World. *SMJ*, 32(11): 1243-1250

Class 7 – February 5th , 10am – 1pm – Dynamic capabilities View: Microfoundations of Capabilities

Teece, D. J. (2007). "Explicating Dynamic Capabilities: The Nature and Microfoundations of (Sustainable) Enterprise Performance", *SMJ*, 28:13, 1319-1350

Barney, J., Felin, T. (2013). What are microfoundations? *Academy of Management Perspectives*

Helfat A., Peteraf M.A., 2015, Managerial cognitive capabilities and the microfoundations of dynamic capabilities, *Strategic Management Journal*, 36:6, 831-850

Class 8 – February 7th, 2pm-5pm – Papers on action,

Furlan A., Galeazzo A., Paggiaro, Organizational and perceived learning in the workplace: a multilevel perspective on employees' problem solving, *Organizational Science*, forthcoming

Furlan A., Cabigiosu A., Camuffo A., 2015 "When the mirror gets misted up: modularity and technological change", *Strategic Management Journal*, Vol 35 (6), p. 789-807

Class 9 – February 12th – 10am-1pm – Work on the presentations

Class 10 – February 14th , 10am – 2pm – Final class Student presentations of a research proposal