

Syllabus: Special Topics in International Business
Global Business Strategy (4ECTS) SS2024
040221

Course Instructor:

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Course Description and Objectives

The course provides an overview of the most important strategic decisions to be taken in a globalized economy. As such, the course aims to introduce a set of contemporary strategy theories, concepts and frameworks that will allow students to identify important principles that a firm can use in taking decisions that will ultimately determine its success (or demise) in a global business environment.

Throughout the course we will outline key opportunities, challenges and risks of globalization. We will focus on global growth opportunities and market assessment techniques. We will investigate the impact of culture in strategic decisions and emphasize the need to balance local responsiveness and global synergies. We will analyse global competitiveness and we will look at ways in which firms achieve competitive advantage in a global marketplace. The most prominent digital trends will also be discussed, as well as the challenges that digitalization brings to the business models of international firms.

The approach used is both strategic and managerial. Strategic in that we will develop an appreciation of business strategies and understand the notion of competitive advantage. And managerial, in that we will look at global strategy tasks through the lenses of IB managers and executives.

The course uses a combination of interactive lectures, case discussions and group presentations. Attendance and participation in class discussions is critical to the success of the course and will determine your grade.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The course aims to develop strategic thinking in a global business context. You will learn key concepts and tools used in developing global business strategies and in solving global business problems.

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Appreciate the idiosyncrasies involved in developing strategies for global markets.
- Acknowledge the complexities involved in taking strategic decisions in a global marketplace.

- Contextualize these decisions in light of internal capabilities and external environment.
- Employ key analytical tools and frameworks helpful to managers developing global strategies.
- Understand global competition and competitive advantage.
- Analyse cases that approximate global business strategy situations.

Course Textbook and Additional Readings:

Course Textbook(s):

- Global Business. M.W. Peng, Cengage Learning, 4th edition, 2017.
- International Business – Competing in the Global Marketplace. C. W. Hill, McGraw-Hill, Irwin, 13th edition, 2020.

Course Policies and Useful Information:

- Lectures will take place on site and some possibly online (Zoom)– Please see all information in Moodle.
- The final exam will take place in the classroom.
- Both the course and the exam will be held in **English**.
- Students wishing to take this course *must register via u:find/u:space* (with points) during the registration period. The maximum number of participants is 50.
- Registered students who, for whatever reason, are not able to take the course *must de-register* electronically. The latest date by which the course can be dropped March 12th. Students who decide to drop the course after this deadline will be graded with 5 (failed).

It is absolutely essential that all registered students attend the first session on March 5th 2024 (Introduction). Failure to do so will result in their exclusion from the course. Students should also regularly check our homepage and Moodle for any changes in dates/times or way of connecting online (if needed)

Course Evaluation:

- 40% Case assignment (team task - reports and presentations)
- 40% Final Examination (individual, in class)
- 10% Class participation
- 10% Peer Rating*

*At the end of the course, you will be asked to rate the contribution of the team members in your study group.

Grading Scheme:

- 1 ≥ 88% (44 points)
- 2 ≥ 75% (38 points)
- 3 ≥ 63% (32 points)
- 4 ≥ 50% (25 points)

	Date/ Time	Agenda
(1)	Tues. 05/03 09:45 – 11:15	Introduction to course, administration issues, guide to analyzing case studies
(2)	Wed. 13/03 09:45 – 11:15	Global growth opportunities and market assessment
(3)	Wed. 20/03 09:45 – 11:15	Global competitiveness and competitive advantages and the role of culture in global business strategy
(4)	Tues. 09/04 09:45 – 11:15	Digital globalization: implications for global business strategy
(5)	Tues. 16/04 09:45 – 11:15	Corporate social responsibility strategies in international business
(6)	Tues. 23/04 09:45 – 11:15	Recap session: future outlook of global business strategy
(7)	Wed. 08/05 09:45 – 12:45	Case Presentations
(8)	Wed. 15/05 09:45 – 12:45	Case Presentations
(9)	Wed. 05/06 09:45 – 12:45	Final Examination (management decision task)