SEMINAR IN STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT (MANA 8335-01)

INSTRUCTOR: MICHAEL A. ABEBE, PH.D.
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OFFICE HOURS: T 10:00AM-1:00PM, and by appointment
MEETING PLACE & TIME: T 1:40pm-4:20pm, Weslaco CIC 2.206

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to familiarize doctoral students with fundamental concepts in strategic management. More specifically, the evolution of strategic management as a field of inquiry is discussed with particular emphasis on theoretical and methodological development. The seminar examines various concepts related to the conceptualization of corporate and business level strategies, strategic formulation, implementation and evaluation. A number of research streams such as corporate and cooperative strategies, managerial cognition, strategic decision-making processes, theories of competitive advantage, strategic leadership and corporate governance will be discussed in the seminar. This seminar introduces doctoral students to classic and contemporary thinking in the field of strategic management by examining both the theoretical and empirical developments in the last couple of decades as well as critiques and emerging research opportunities.

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<th>PhD Learning Goals</th>
<th>This course contributes to the following PhD learning objectives:</th>
<th>Assessment method</th>
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<tr>
<td>Discipline knowledge</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>Assigned readings, presentations</td>
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<td>Advanced theoretical or practical research skills for the specialization</td>
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<td>Assigned readings, Research Proposal</td>
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<td>Preparation for teaching responsibilities</td>
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<td>Dissertation competency preparation</td>
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COURSE GRADING & EVALUATION

The grading criteria for this seminar include a complete research proposal, a comprehensive final exam and in-class presentations and participation as indicated below:

IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS AND PARTICIPATION...................... 25%

COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM ........................................... 30%

RESEARCH PROPOSAL ......................................................... 45%

Total 100%

IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS AND PARTICIPATION: As any doctoral level seminars, this course requires an active, intensive and thorough participation from students. Students in this class are assigned multiple reading materials and therefore are expected to cover the weekly assignments and come prepared to class to discuss (and criticize) the assigned reading material. Every week students will be randomly assigned a reading material that they will be responsible for summarizing and presenting to the whole class. Accordingly, I will pay attention to not only the quantity of participation but also the quality of ideas and discourse during the class sessions.

COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM: There will be a comprehensive final examination at the end of the course. The purpose of this exam is both to assess the extent of students’ understanding of fundamental theories of organization as well as prepare students to the upcoming comprehensive field exam they are required to take at the end of their coursework. The general orientation of the exam will be focused on the description, comparison and critique of major theories of organizations. More detailed guidelines regarding the comprehensive final exam will be given during the semester.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL: At the end of the semester, students are expected to submit a complete research proposal on their topic of choice. Basically, the complete research proposal includes a well articulated research question, clearly outlined theoretical framework (could be from theories covered during the semester) and a carefully designed methodology for testing the research question(s) if the proposal is of an empirical nature. While the proposal’s deadline is set at the end of the semester, students are generally advised to identify their topic of interest well ahead of time and discuss this particular topic with their colleagues and the instructor. There will be a preliminary presentation of research topics by each student during the semester. Each student then is expected to take the comments/suggestions he/she received during the presentation and incorporate them in the final research proposal.
THE INSTRUCTOR HIGHLY ENCOURAGES ALL STUDENTS TO START PLANNING AHEAD OF TIME TO SUBMIT THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL TO AN ACADEMIC CONFERENCE AFTER THE END OF THE SEMESTER.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: I do believe in conducting the teaching learning process in the class based on trust and mutual respect. Students who regularly attend class and participate in discussions will find the course significantly rewarding. Cheating of any kind is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

ATTENDANCE: Since there is only one meeting time every week and the fact that doctoral seminars (including this course) tend to involve substantial student participation, I highly encourage students to attend class regularly. Along with physical attendance, I expect an active intellectual contribution from each student in the class via suggestions, comments and critiques.

DISABILITY: If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE: In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during
this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at [www.utrgv.edu/equity](http://www.utrgv.edu/equity), including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION:**
“Mandatory Course Evaluations period (November 15 – December 5): Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account ([http://my.utrgv.edu](http://my.utrgv.edu)); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.”

**MANA 8335 Tentative Course Schedule*-Fall 2018**

**Wk. 1: August 28th - Introductions, Syllabus, Preparing for doctoral seminar**

**Thoughts on Conducting Strategy Research (Read the following before class):**


**Wk. 2: September 4th-The Evolution of Strategic Management as a Field**

**Presenters & Discussant: ____________________________**

**Required Readings:**


**Supplementary Reading:**


**Wk. 3: September 11th- Strategic Decisions & Decision-Makers**

**Presenters & Discussant: ____________________________**

**Required Readings:**


**Supplementary Reading:**


**Wk. 4: September 18th- Strategic Leadership: Role of Top Executives in Strategic Management**

**Presenters & Discussant: ____________________________**

**Required Readings:**


***TWO PAGE WK. 3 SUMMARY DUE***

**Supplementary Readings:**


**Wk. 5: September 25th- Corporate Governance & Agency Theory**

**Presenters & Discussant: __________**

**Required Readings:**


***TWO PAGE WK. 4 SUMMARY DUE***

**Supplementary Readings:**


**Wk. 6: October 2nd –Theories of Competitive Advantage-Industrial Organization**

Presenters & Discussant: ______________________

**Required Readings:**


***TWO PAGE WK. 6 SUMMARY DUE***

**Supplementary Reading:**


**Wk. 7: October 9th-Theories of Competitive Advantage-Resource-Based View (Part I)**

Presenters & Discussant: ________________

**Required Readings:**


**Supplementary Reading:**


**Wk. 8: October 16th- Resource-Based View (Part II)-Empirical Evidence**

**Presenters & Discussant: ____________________________**

**Required Readings:**


***TWO PAGE WK. 7 & 8 SUMMARY DUE***
**Supplementary Reading:**


**Wk. 9: October 23rd- Diversification and the Scope of the Firm (Part I)**

**Presenters & Discussant:** __________________________

**Required Readings:**


**Supplementary Readings:**


Wk. 10: October 30th - Corporate Strategy- Mergers & Acquisitions (Part II)

Presenters & Discussant: _________________

Required Readings:


***TWO PAGE WK. 9 SUMMARY DUE***

Supplementary Readings:


**Wk.11: November 6th- Cooperative Strategies- Strategic Alliances**

**Presenters & Discussant: ________________**

**Required Readings:**


***TWO PAGE WK. 10 SUMMARY DUE***

**Supplementary Readings:**


Wk.12: November 13th - Research Proposal Presentations (First Draft)

Wk. 13: November 20th - Managerial Cognition and Strategic Management

Presenters & Discussant: ______________

Required Readings:


Supplementary Readings:


Wk. 14: November 27th- Research Methodologies in Strategic Management

Presenters & Discussant: ______________

Required Readings:


***TWO PAGE WK. 13 SUMMARY DUE***

Wk. 15: December 4th- ***FINAL RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS****

Wk. 16: December 11th- *****FINAL EXAM*****

* Contents of syllabus are subject to change at instructor’s discretion.