COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a Ph.D. seminar in the field of strategic management research with an international emphasis. It has the following objectives:

a) To introduce you to the basic theoretical and empirical traditions of the field of strategy research.

b) To expose you to current research in specific streams within the field.

c) To help you develop the skills necessary to evaluate and contribute to the field.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Read all the ‘assigned readings’ for each session and be prepared to actively participate in discussions. The ‘additional readings’ will not be discussed in class. They either constitute additional foundational research or recent advances. They may be useful for the term paper or future research.

Beginning on Session 2, you will be assigned a specific paper each class on which you will lead the discussion. A critical summary of it will be required. It should be one page, single spaced, Times New Roman font size 11, 1-inch margins. The summary should include:

a) A summary of the research question or problem the paper addresses

b) The paper’s major strengths and limitations

c) The contribution it makes to the field, and a couple of major obvious and non-obvious links to the other pieces read that day or earlier in the seminar

d) One interesting and researchable question derived from it.

Your delivery of the summary in class will contribute to your class participation grade. Readings marked with an asterisk in the schedule will not be summarized. Please bring paper summaries for all.

In addition, one student will perform the role of ‘integrator’ in each session. The student assigned as integrator for a session will not be required to turn in a paper summary, but will instead prepare an integration scheme to share. The integration should include how the assigned readings
are linked to each other, what are the main questions answered by the papers, what answers the papers provide to the questions, and what future research can be pointed out by the papers. The integrations will be discussed after the summary presentations. Please bring integrations for all.

Finally, you will also be required to write a final paper. You should strive to develop an empirical paper. However, if you are unable to collect the data in time, then the paper should at least clearly identify the motivation and research question, have a sound theoretical development leading to hypotheses, identify clearly what type of data would be needed for testing, and explain how it would be collected. Feel free to discuss the paper with me over the term. You will present your paper in the last session on May 6. Papers are due by 5:00 p.m. on May 5 on Turnitin.

**GRADING**
Evaluation will be based following weights:

- Class summaries and integrations: 25%
- Class participation: 25%
- Final paper: 50%

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**
Scholastic dishonesty implies severe consequences:

"The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence. In all matters of intellectual pursuit, UTEP faculty and students must strive to achieve excellence based on the quality of work produced by the individual. In the classroom and in all other academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty is an affront to the pursuit of knowledge and jeopardizes the quality of the degree awarded to all graduates of UTEP. It is imperative, therefore, that the members of this academic community understand the regulations pertaining to academic integrity and that all faculty insist on adherence to these standards. Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the 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, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP), and available in the Office of the Dean of Students and on the homepage of the Dean of Students at: http://www.utep.edu/dos may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to a failing grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, among others." (UTEP’s Handbook of Operating Procedures)

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: THE CONTENT IN THIS SYLLABUS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**
January 21: Session 1
Introduction to the field

Assigned readings:


Additional readings:


Assigned readings:

“Traditional” IO:


IO:


Additional readings:


**February 4: Session 3**

**Resource Based View**

*Assigned readings:*


**Additional readings:**


**February 11: Session 4**

**Coasian view of the firm and its extensions: I**

**Assigned readings:**


Additional readings:


February 18: Session 5
Coasian view of the firm and its extensions: II

Assigned readings:


Additional readings:


**February 25: Session 6**  
**Schumpeterian and evolutionary views**

*Assigned readings:*


*Additional readings:*


**March 4: Session 7**

**Networks**

*Assigned readings:*


*Additional readings:*


**March 18: Session 8**

**Firm search**

*Assigned readings:*


Additional readings:


**March 25: Session 9**

**The multibusiness firm**

Assigned readings:


**Additional readings:**


**April 1: Session 10**
**Mergers and acquisitions**

*Assigned readings:*


*Additional readings:*


**April 8: Session 11**  
**Joint ventures and alliances**

*Assigned readings:*


*Additional readings:*


April 15: Session 12
Externalities and firm strategies

Assigned readings:


Additional readings:


April 22: Session 13
The multinational firm (I)

Assigned readings:


Additional readings:


April 29: Session 14
The multinational firm (II)

Assigned readings:


Additional readings:


May 6: Session 15
Presentations