

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO**  
**MGMT 5335: INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT**  
**CRN 18431**  
**FALL 2018**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Welcome to Management 5335! This course focuses on the understanding of why some companies perform better than others both domestically and internationally. As MBA students you already know that companies are complex entities that require many types of specialized knowledge such as accounting, finance, operations management, marketing and human resources management. In this class we will build on what you already know in these different areas while focusing on the behavior and performance of the entire organization.

More specifically, the course is designed to primarily provide you with empirically tested theory, useful frameworks and case analyses to help you understand how companies develop competitive advantage through the development of firm resources and capabilities and their redeployment within industries, across industries and across countries. The course can be described in two words: interactive and applied. It is *interactive* because it heavily relies on your active participation. It is *applied* because we will apply theoretical concepts and frameworks to in-depth case discussions and a final project.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

To overarching goal of the course is to understand the key elements of international strategic management of a company: analysis of the firm and its competitive environment, analysis of strategic alternatives, and development of strategic recommendations. This will be achieved through the following learning objectives and corresponding activities and assessments:

LEARNING OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES	ASSESSMENT
Define strategic management and understand its importance	Readings: Textbook chapter 1. Case analysis: Ingvar Kamprad and IKEA.	Exam Participation in class Final project
Understand the concept of competitive advantage	Reading: Textbook chapter 2. Case analysis: Ducati.	Exam Participation in class Final project

LEARNING OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES	ASSESSMENT
Understand the impact of industry forces on profitability	Reading: Textbook chapter 3. Case analysis: Intel Corporation: 1968-1997.	Exam Participation in class Final project
Understand the different stages of industry evolution and their impact on competition	Reading: Textbook chapter 4. Case analyses: Blockbuster Inc. & Technological Substitution (A&D); The TAG Heuer Carrera Connected Watch: Swiss Avant-Garde in the Digital Age (A).	Exam Participation in class Final project
Understand the development and redeployment resources and capabilities as the source of competitive advantage	Reading: Textbook chapter 5.	Exam Final project
Understand vertical integration decisions and their impact on competitive advantage	Reading: Textbook chapter 7. Case analysis: Zara: Fast Fashion.	Exam Participation in class Final project
Understand horizontal diversification decisions and their impact on competitive advantage	Reading: Textbook chapter 10. Case analysis: Danaher Corporation	Exam Participation in class Final project
Understand international expansion decisions and their impact on competitive advantage	Reading: Textbook chapter 9. Case analysis: Walmart around the World.	Exam Participation in class Final project

## LEARNING METHOD

The course will involve some lecture and discussion of the key concepts and frameworks. This part is important to clarify your understanding of these ideas for their correct application. However, much of the learning will occur through case discussions and presentations.

The cases provide a vehicle for real-world learning. I expect you to take the concepts from the book and readings and apply them to the cases. The cases represent real organizations, but the information is incomplete. Nevertheless, as in real life, managerial decisions have to be made with incomplete information relying on reasonable assumptions.

## COMMUNICATION

I will use a course site on Blackboard to post all class materials and email to communicate with you.

## **TEXTBOOK**

Modern Competitive Strategy (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)  
Gordon Walker & Tammy L. Madsen  
ISBN-13: 978-1259181207

## **CASE PACKET**

The case packet is available for purchase at:  
<https://hbsp.harvard.edu/import/580848>

*Students who do not purchase the course packet from this link will not receive participation credit.*

## **EVALUATION**

Participation	20%
Exams (2)	22.5% each
ETS MBA assessment	5%
Group project	30%
Report	25%
Peer evaluation	5%

(1) Participation: 20%

Participation is an important element of the course for two reasons. First, it is an intrinsic part of the case teaching method, which is built on the assumption that the collective discussion of ideas constitutes a powerful way to learn. Second, active listening, communication, and persuasion are important general management skills.

I expect students to be (a) present and prepared for every class; and (b) ready to share their views in the classroom discussions. Thus, I reserve the right to “cold-call” students during class. Note that the presentations that teams will deliver throughout the course are considered as part of class participation.

I evaluate participation in terms of quantity and quality. In terms of quality, I assess contributions in ascending order from summaries of facts and minor comments, to substantial comments, to outstanding contributions. Finally, keep in mind that attendance is a necessary but not sufficient condition for earning a good participation grade.

Tips on how to approach the cases and questions for each case are listed in Appendix A (page 9).

(2) Exams: 22.5% each

There are two in-class closed-book exams. They will contain multiple choice and short-essay questions. *The questions can be based on the textbook and class discussions.* Dates: November 15 and December 3.

(3) ETS MBA Major Field Test: 5%

The MBA Major Field Test, an exam developed by Educational Testing Service, is required by the College of Business Administration for institutional assessment. I will discuss its details in class and will post related materials on Blackboard. There will be a review session on December 6. Date: December 10.

(4) Final group project report: 25%

See appendices B and C (pages 11 to 13) for project details and grading rubric. Due: December 5 at 10:00 p.m. *Late assignments will not be accepted without a significant penalty.*

- Final projects must be uploaded to Blackboard by the due date and time.
- *A maximum of 20% in the SafeAssign score within the originality report is allowed. In addition, note that any portion of the paper below this percentage should not be copied from any source without properly citing it.*
- Use APA (American Psychological Association) citation style:  
<http://www.apastyle.org/apa-style-help.aspx>
- Paper must be upload only once.
- For guidance regarding plagiarism go to: <http://www.plagiarism.org/>
- Let me know if you have any questions regarding plagiarism.
- *If plagiarism is suspected, the case will be forwarded to the Office of the Dean of Students.*

(5) Final project peer evaluation: 5%

This component will be based on your peer's confidential evaluation of your contribution *to your final group project*. I will make a form for this purpose available on Blackboard. *The signed forms should not be submitted in class.* You can submit it via email or drop it in my mailbox (office 230 at COBA). *You should not assess yourself in the form. Forms using a scale different from the one listed in it will not be considered. Such forms and those not submitted will be considered equivalent to granting the maximum grade to your team members.* Due: December 5 at 10:00 p.m.

### **Course Grading Policy:**

A: Represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.

B: Represents achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.

C: Represents achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.

D: Represents achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.

F: Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I (see also I).

I: (Incomplete) Assigned at the discretion of the instructor only under *extraordinary* circumstances, (e.g. hospitalization). It requires a written agreement between instructor and student.

Scale:           100≥A≥90  
                  90>B≥80  
                  80>C≥70  
                  70>D≥60  
                  60>F

### **Re-grading Policy:**

- All requests must be submitted in writing to me. You must identify:
  - The question or point you believe was incorrectly graded
  - The amount of credit you request
  - The reasons why
- All requests must be handed to me within a week of receiving your grade.
- This policy applies to exams and final project.

### **Make-up Exams:**

I will provide make-ups for the exams to students under unavoidable or legitimate circumstances. Such circumstances include, but are not necessarily limited to, documented illness, serious family emergencies, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, and religious observances.

### **Class Conduct:**

- You are expected to arrive to the class on time and stay until the end. Please notify me in advance if you need to arrive late or leave early in extraordinary cases.
- Limit the number of times going outside the classroom. Breaks will be provided.
- No audio or video recording of the class is allowed without my written consent.
- Do not be disruptive to the instructor or other students.
- Be brief and to the point when speaking in class.
- Listen to what other people have to say.
- Build on other people's ideas.
- Respect other people's ideas.

*Note: Please minimize the use of electronic devices during class for activities unrelated to it.*

### **Academic Integrity:**

"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)

*Suspected cases of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students.*

## **ADDITIONAL POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

### **Campus Carry:**

Persons who hold a Concealed Handgun License can lawfully carry their gun into a UTEP classroom as long as it remains concealed. Open carry remains prohibited on campus. Should you feel someone is intentionally displaying a gun (or any other weapon for that matter), do not hesitate to call Campus Police (X 5611) or 9-1-1. For more information on campus carry, see <http://sa.utep.edu/campuscarry/>; for more information on overall campus safety, see <http://admin.utep.edu/emergency>.

*The UTEP Graduate Business Center (GBC) is an exclusion zone due to our building lease. Persons who hold a Concealed Handgun License are prohibited to carry their gun into UTEP GBC.*

### **Special Accommodations for students:**

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass).

### **Other student services:**

Student Counseling Center: <http://sa.utep.edu/counsel/>; (915) 747-5302  
202 Union West; walk-ins are encouraged.

Student Health Center: <http://chs.utep.edu/health>; (915) 747-5624  
Many services are free to students paid for through student health fee.

## **ABOUT ME**

I am Associate Professor of Management (with Tenure) at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). I have a Ph.D. in Business Administration with a focus on Strategy and International Management from the University of Minnesota (Carlson School of Management). I also have a M. Sc. in International Economics and Business with a concentration on Business and Economics of South East Asia from the Stockholm School of Economics in Sweden, and a B. Sc. in Industrial and Systems Engineering from ITESM (Monterrey Tech) Querétaro Campus in Mexico. I have primarily taught in the areas of strategic management and international business at upper undergraduate and graduate levels (MBA and Ph.D.). Before joining UTEP I was Assistant Professor of Management at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. I was also Full-Time Lecturer at ITESM Campus Guadalajara before pursuing my doctoral degree. Prior to my academic career I worked for Coca-Cola bottling groups in Mexico in marketing and distribution.

My research interests revolve around corporate strategy, international expansion, institutions, and economic geography. My work has been published in *Strategic Management Journal*, *Strategic Organization*, *Journal of International Management*, *European Journal of Political Economy*, *Advances in Strategic Management*, *Multinational Business Review* and *Innovating Strategy Process* (a Strategic Management Society Series book). I have presented my research at major international conferences organized by the Academy of International Business, the Academy of Management, the European International Business Academy, and the Strategic Management Society. I am also a member of the Editorial Review Board at *Global Strategy Journal*.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: THE CONTENT IN THIS SYLLABUS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

CLASS SCHEDULE MGMT 5335 CRN 18431	
DATE	TOPIC AND MATERIALS
10/29	<b>What is Strategy?</b> Readings: textbook chapter 1 Case: Ingvar Kamprad and IKEA
11/1	<b>Competitive Advantage</b> Readings: textbook chapter 2 Case: Ducati <i>Teams due</i>
11/5	<b>Industry Analysis</b> Readings: textbook chapter 3 Case: Intel Corporation: 1968-1997 <i>Company selection for final project due</i>
11/8	<b>Competing Over time (I)</b> Readings: textbook chapter 4 Case: Blockbuster Inc. & Technological Substitution (A&D)
11/12	<b>Competing Over Time (II)</b> Readings: textbook chapter 4 Case: The TAG Heuer Carrera Connected Watch: Swiss Avant-Garde for the Digital Age (A)
11/15	<b>Exam 1: chapters 1-4, and class discussions</b> <b>Strategy Execution</b> Readings: textbook chapter 5 Q&A on final paper
11/19	<b>Vertical Scope</b> Readings: textbook chapter 7 Case: Zara: Fast Fashion
11/22	<i>Thanksgiving (no class)</i>
11/26	<b>Horizontal Scope</b> Readings: textbook chapter 10 Case: Danaher Corporation
11/29	<b>International Scope</b> Readings: textbook chapter 9 Case: Walmart around the World
12/3	<b>Exam 2: chapters 5, 7, 9-10; additional notes and class discussions</b> <b>Course Synthesis</b> <i>Individual project report due December 5 at 10:00 p.m.</i>
12/6	ETS MBA Major Field Test Review
12/10	<b>ETS MBA Major Field Test</b>



## **APPENDIX A CASE QUESTIONS**

Important tips on how to approach the cases:

- The questions below provide a baseline for the analysis in class. I expect you to reflect on them *before* the corresponding session. For most cases I will provide additional guidance in class.
- Assume that the cases ended recently. In other words, searching for developments after the cases ended and trying to use that information retroactively to justify your answers will not maximize your learning.

### **Ingvar Kamprad and IKEA**

1. What were the sources of IKEA's successful entry into the furniture retailing business in Sweden?
2. What challenges did IKEA face while expanding globally and how did it overcome them?
3. Why was IKEA's business model not copied?
4. What challenges may lie ahead for IKEA?

### **Ducati**

1. How did Ducati become the second most profitable motorcycle maker in the world despite its small scale? What was the fundamental logic of Minoli's turnaround?
2. Can Ducati sustain its position in the sport segment? Why or why not?
3. What strategic alternatives are available to Minoli in 2001? What are their pros and cons?

### **Intel Corporation: 1968-1997**

1. What was Intel's strategy in DRAMs? What accounts for Intel's dramatic decline in market share in the DRAM market between 1974 and 1984? To what extent was Intel's failure a result of its strategy?
2. What strategy did Intel use to gain competitive advantage in microprocessors? Why has Intel been able to sustain its advantage in microprocessors, but not in DRAMs?
3. Assess the future prospects of Intel. What is the biggest threat it faces? Who should it be most worried about?

### **Blockbuster Inc. & Technological Substitution (A&D)**

1. Why did Blockbuster become the dominant movie rental firm? What do you think were its value and cost drivers? How did it defend against competitors?
2. What technological substitutes for Blockbuster's services did the firm encounter? How did the firm deal with these substitutes?
3. What emerging substitutes did the firm encounter later (after the case period)? Did it deal with them effectively? If so, how?

### **The TAG Heuer Carrera Connected Watch: Swiss Avant-Garde for the Digital Age (A)**

1. Why did the watch industry grow in Switzerland? (read in advance textbook Chapter 9's concepts on regional and country-specific advantages).
2. Do you think that TAG Heuer has the capabilities to be successful in the connector watch market? Why or why not?

**Zara: Fast Fashion**

1. Why has Zara been successful? (What are its value and cost drivers?) How does it protect them? How well does it grow and innovate over time?
2. How have Zara's practices and policies regarding its boundaries contributed to its growth and performance? (Think about the combination of both vertical integration and outsourcing in making clothes.)
3. What challenges does Zara face?

**Danaher Corporation**

1. What are the three words, other than Danaher Business System, that account for the success of Danaher?
2. Is there a limit to the range of businesses in which Danaher can create value?
3. What are the biggest challenges facing Danaher in 2010?
4. Can other firms replicate the success of Danaher? Why or why not?

**Walmart around the World.**

1. Evaluate Walmart's globalization strategy. Where did the retailer struggle? Where did it do well?
2. What explains the difference in Walmart's performance across locations?
3. What lessons can we learn from the Walmart experience? Identify at least three general lessons and two retail-specific lessons.

## APPENDIX B GUIDELINES FOR GROUP PROJECT REPORT

Purpose: To apply the knowledge acquired in this class to a strategic problem or challenge of a company of your choice.

Format: The report should have between 15 and 20 double spaced pages *of analysis* (double-spaced, font size 12, one-inch margins). Cover pages(s), list of references and appendices with charts and tables are *not* included in this page limit. Attach list of references and appendices at the end. The information provided on them will be considered only if they are referred to in the analysis. You must cite all references.

Structure:

### A. Company selection

List of team members is due by November 1. Each group should select two public companies they would like to analyze. Submit your company choices by November 5 ranked by preference. If multiple groups prefer the same company luck of the draw will decide. In making your company choices consider the following questions:

- Why are you interested in studying this company? What is the strategic problem or challenge you find interesting?
- How familiar are group members with the company?
- How accessible are data on this company and its environment?

### B. Project content

Introduction:

- Strategic problem or challenge the company faces

Industry analysis:

- Industry forces (chapter 3)
- Industry evolution (chapter 4)

Company analysis:

- Competitive positioning (chapter 2)
- Execution (chapter 5)
- Scope (chapters 7, 9 and 10, see notes below)

Recommendations:

- Specific actions to address the identified problem or challenge
- Evaluation of implications of your recommended actions

Notes:

- *Companies in the cases or featured in the textbook are not allowed.*
- *Analysis must include quantitative assessment of firm performance relative to key competitors. Choosing a publicly traded company will significantly facilitate it.*
- *Choosing a company with a narrow industrial and geographic scope will significantly facilitate your analysis.*
  - *If your choice is either a vertically integrated company or its operations in one its industries, the analysis of scope should include an assessment of the entire company. This involves the theory from chapter 7 and related materials.*
  - *If your choice is either a multi-business company or one of its lines of businesses, the analysis of scope should include an assessment of the entire company. This involves the theory from chapter 10 and related materials.*

- *If your choice is a highly international company, the assessment of its geographic scope should be a meaningful part of the analysis.*

## **APPENDIX C**

### **GRADING RUBRIC FOR GROUP PROJECT REPORT**

*Scale for items:*

*1= Unacceptable*

*2= Developing*

*3= Acceptable*

*4= Exemplary*

#### **ISSUE RECOGNITION**

The analysis recognizes the critical issues of the project.

The analysis identifies the relevant information. When information is not available reasonable assumptions are made based on the context.

#### **ANALYSIS**

The analysis deals with the relevant problems or critical issues.

The analysis uses the relevant theoretical background from the textbook and sessions.

The analysis is coherent. The logical reasoning of the arguments is sound.

The conclusions follow from the arguments.

The recommendations are feasible given the company's resources and capabilities.

The analysis is cohesive. Answers are well connected.

#### **PRESENTATION**

The paper is well written. It has no misspellings and obvious grammatical errors.

The paper complies with all format guidelines.