

## COURSE SYLLABUS

# Doctoral course: Classics in Entrepreneurship, 2 credit points

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Course code:  
Reviewed by: RFB  
Approved by: RFB?  
Valid as of: 2016-06-14  
Version: 1  
Reference number:

Education Cycle: Third cycle, doctoral program course  
Doctoral programme subject: Business Administration and Economics

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### Purpose:

This course is concerned with the intellectual roots of entrepreneurship research. Scientific knowledge is cumulative in nature. Knowledge about the intellectual roots and history of the field provides an important foundation, which makes it substantially easier to understand the current debates in entrepreneurship and to contribute to these discussions.

### Intended learning outcomes:

On completion of the course, the students will be able to:

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

1. Demonstrate mastery of the core ideas put forward in entrepreneurship “classics” in economics, psychology, and sociology.
2. Demonstrate a broad knowledge and understanding of how entrepreneurship classics have influenced current “conversations” in entrepreneurship research.

#### *Skills and abilities*

3. Demonstrate the ability to understand, analyze and discuss classical contributions to entrepreneurship research.
4. Demonstrate the ability to trace and evaluate the influence of classics on contemporary entrepreneurship research.

#### *Judgement and approach*

5. Read and independently evaluate and analyze classical text as well as learned commentaries and modern works that implicitly or explicitly build on the “classics”.

### Content:

The course is divided in three parts:

- The entrepreneur in economics
- The entrepreneur in sociology and psychology
- Modern classics

The first part deals with the work of Schumpeter and Kirzner because of their explicit presence in current entrepreneurship research. But Entrepreneurship also has other foundations; in the second part we look at

sociological and psychological “classics”. In the third part, we revisit some “modern classics” from 1988-1997 and discuss how older and more recent classics influence current entrepreneurship research.

**Type of Instruction/Teaching format:**

Class sessions will be devoted to reviewing and critiquing the readings associated with each session and to discussing the assignment submitted.

This course uses the three-step approach to learning: reading, writing, and discussing, with reflection and learning throughout the process. Students are expected to read and reflect upon the assigned readings prior to the session in which they will be discussed. As the goal of studying the readings is critical reflection rather than memorizing of contents, students shall also hand in written reflections prior to each session.

**Prerequisites:**

Admitted to a doctoral programme in business administration, economics, or a related subject of a recognized business school or university.

**Examination and grades:**

The course examination consist of written hand-ins and active participation during seminars. The course will be examined in the following way:

- Written assignments fulfill ILOs 1-5.
- Attendance and active participation in discussions fulfill ILOs 1-5.

The grades are ‘pass’ or ‘fail’

**Course evaluation:**

A course evaluation will be conducted at the end of the course.

**Literature:**

See separate reading list.



JÖNKÖPING UNIVERSITY  
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## Classics in Entrepreneurship

Instructor: Per Davidsson, PhD  
Entrepreneurship Professor  
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### Course Description and Objective

This course is concerned with the intellectual roots of entrepreneurship research. Scientific knowledge is cumulative in nature. Knowledge about the intellectual roots and history of the field provides an important foundation, which makes it substantially easier to understand the current debates in entrepreneurship and to contribute to these discussions. In addition, it is very rewarding in and of itself to understand how a field develops and is shaped into its current form.

The first session deals with the work of Schumpeter and Kirzner because of its explicit presence in current entrepreneurship research. But Entrepreneurship also has other foundations; in the second session we sociological and psychological “classics”. In the third session, we revisit some “modern classics” from 1988-2000 and discuss how older and more recent classics influence current entrepreneurship research.

### Course Structure

For each of the sessions, this course uses the three-step approach to learning: reading, writing, and discussing, with reflection and learning throughout the process. Students are expected to read and reflect upon the assigned readings prior to the session in which they will be discussed. As the goal of studying the readings is critical reflection rather than memorizing of contents, students shall also hand in written reflections prior to each session. Instructions concerning the hand-ins are provided in the below.

Class sessions will be devoted to reviewing and critiquing the readings associated with each session and to discussing the assignment submitted.

### Hand-Ins

Each session you should answer specific questions in the format of a short paper (see course schedule and assignments below). If nothing else is indicated, the following instructions apply. Read the assigned readings carefully and thoughtfully. Prepare a paper addressing the assignment questions. The paper should be min. 2, max. 4 pages: Times New Roman 12, single spaced, with 2.5 cm margins.

***N B! All assignments should be circulated to the instructor and the course participants at least 72 hours before the course starts.***

***Sign up to the course by sending an email to [Susanne.Hansson@ju.se](mailto:Susanne.Hansson@ju.se) by June 10.***

## Session Topics

<b>Session1</b>	<b>Monday, August 19 at 13.00-16.00, room B6046</b>
Topic	The entrepreneur in economics: Schumpeter Mark I
Assignments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What do you find most and least attractive (or appealing) about Schumpeter's theorizing?</li> <li>2. What do you find most and least attractive (or appealing) about Kirzner's (1973) theorizing?</li> <li>3. What important similarities and differences can you see between Schumpeter's and Kirzner's respective views?</li> </ol>
Readings	Elliott, Introduction to "transaction edition" of Schumpeter, 1934, sections I-III, pp vii-xxxviii Swedberg (1991), Chapter 2, section II pp 31-40 Schumpeter (1934), Chapter 2 Kirzner (1973) pp. 1-47 (Ch 1 and parts of Ch 2)

<b>Session 2</b>	<b>Tuesday, August 20 10.00-12.00, room B6046</b>
Topic	The entrepreneur in sociology and psychology
Assignments	1. On the basis of the readings, sketch a proposal for a sociological or macro-psychological research project that would interest you
Readings	Wärneryd (1988) pp 412-418 McClelland (1961), Chapters 2, 6 Weber (1930), Chapter 2 Stuetzer, M., Audretsch, D. B., Obschonka, M., Gosling, S. D., Rentfrow, P. J., & Potter, J. (2018) (not as "classic" but as current example of macro-psychological entrepreneurship research)

<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Tuesday, August 20 13.00-16.00, room B6046</b>
Topic	Modern classics
Assignments	1. What traces of older and more recent classics can you identify in Davidsson (2016) and/or other present-day [conceptualizations of] entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship research?
Readings	Baumol (1990) Gartner (1988) Shane & Venkataraman (2000) Davidsson (2016), ch. 1-2 (not as "classic" but as basis for linking classics to the present as per hand-in 3)

## Student Evaluation Criteria

Classroom Contribution	25%
Hand-In 1	25%
Hand-In 2	25%
Hand-In 3	25%

## References:

- Baumol, W. J. 1990. Entrepreneurship: Productive, unproductive and destructive. *Journal of Political Economy*, 98(5): 893-921.
- Davidsson, P. 2016. *Researching Entrepreneurship: Conceptualization and Design*, New York: Springer.
- Elliott (in Schumpeter, 1934)
- Gartner, W. B. 1988. "Who is an Entrepreneur?" is the wrong question. *American Small Business Journal*, 12(4): 11-31.
- Kirzner, I. M. 1973. *Competition and Entrepreneurship*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- McClelland, D. C. 1961. *The Achieving Society*. Princeton, NJ: Van Nostrand.
- Schumpeter, J. A. 1934. *The Theory of Economic Development*. Cambridge: MA: Harvard University Press.
- Shane, S., & Venkataraman, S. (2000). The promise of entrepreneurship as a field of research. *Academy of management review*, 25(1), 217-226.
- Swedberg, R. 1991. *Schumpeter: a biography*: Princeton University Press Princeton, NJ.
- Stuetzer, M., Obschonka, M., Audretsch, D. B., Wyrwich, M., Rentfrow, P. J., Coombes, M., ... & Satchell, M. (2016). Industry structure, entrepreneurship, and culture: An empirical analysis using historical coalfields. *European Economic Review*, 86, 52-72.
- Wärneryd, K.-E. 1988. *The psychology of innovative entrepreneurship*. In: Raaij, W. F., Veldhoven, G. M., & Wärneryd, K. E. (Eds.). (1988). Handbook of economic psychology. Netherlands: Kluwer.
- Weber, M. 1930/2002. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism and other writings*: Penguin.