

Supply Chain Management for doctoral students Autumn 2005

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Course objectives and content

The purpose of this course is to give a doctoral research -level introduction to the approaches that are used to explain the supply chain management phenomenon. Supply chain management is touched upon at least in the following research areas: operations management, logistics, systems analysis, information systems management, industrial business networks and relationship marketing. In this course, we will study and discuss a set of materials explaining supply chain management from several perspectives. The objective of the course is to familiarize the course participants with the most influential research articles in the area of supply chain management, and the research approaches, theories and research methodologies used to research this phenomenon.

We will cover the following topics of supply chain management during the course:

- General supply chain management
- Customer value and supply chain management
- Supply chain configuration
- Networks and relationships
- Coordinated product and supply chain design
- Information technology and decision-support systems for supply chain management

The course comprises six interdependent four-hour seminar sessions. This means that even if each session is devoted to a specific perspective on supply chain management, all the sessions together form a comprehensive set of ideas to explain what supply chain management is about. During each session, we will address a number of general questions as well as questions that will be assigned specifically to individual sessions. The general questions are:

1. What are the phenomena or managerial problems the selected readings seek to address and explain?
2. What are the key concepts and theoretical foundations of the research presented in the readings?
3. What are the research approaches and the research methodologies used to carry out the research?
4. What kind of empirical work has been done to carry out the research?
5. What are the contributions of the research—both theoretical and managerial?
6. What are some of the main problems or challenges in the articles?
7. What are the directions for future research, for example, in terms of doctoral research?

The session-specific questions are listed under each session description.

In order to complete the course, each participant is required to complete the following:

1. Attend the seminar sessions.
2. Read all the required readings for the sessions and actively participate in discussion.
3. Co-facilitate one session (see below).
4. Write a term paper (see below).

Co-facilitation

The lecturers in the course are in charge of overall management of the session and facilitating discussion. However, each student will be in charge of co-facilitating one individual session with the lecturer. Depending on the number of students in the course this will be done either individually or in groups of 2-3 students. Co-facilitation means (1) preparing a 3-6 page summary of the lessons learned from the session with the instructor (this is completed after the session) and (2) facilitating discussion in one seminar session with the instructor (the format of co-facilitation may vary from one session to the next). Co-facilitators should contact the lecturer in charge of the session well in advance to discuss their assignment and role for the session.

Term paper

Each student is required to write a 10-15 page essay in which the student picks a managerial problem of phenomenon (ideally based on one's dissertation work) and examines it from several research perspectives of supply chain management. The goal here is to examine a real-life phenomenon or problem from alternative theoretical and/or research methodological perspectives.

Detailed schedule and readings

May 1st	Course sign up – Maximum 15 Ph.D. students
May 15th	Notification of admission
June 1st	Final course material and Co-facilitation assignments
June – August	Preparation and reading of course material
September 26th - 28th	Ph.D. course – Venue Aalborg University, Denmark
November 1st	Submission of Term Paper
December 1st	Final course evaluation and approval

Course credits

The Ph.D. course weights is 3,5 credits (ects).

Fee and accommodation

The Ph.D. course is free of charge but does not include meals and accommodation. Accommodation can be organized close by the university.

Further information

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Professor Jussi Heikkilä, ???

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Classified bibliography - Provisional

General supply chain management

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Customer value and supply chain management

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Supply chain configuration

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Networks and relationships

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Information technology and decision-support systems for supply chain management

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