



ME2804 Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship 7.5 credits

Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

This is a translation of the Swedish, legally binding, course syllabus.

Establishment

Course syllabus for ME2804 valid from Autumn 2010

Grading scale

A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

Education cycle

Second cycle

Main field of study

Industrial Management

Specific prerequisites

Programme students at KTH must have a minimum of 120 university points, especially in the areas of technology, economics, medicine or biomedicine. Experience with administration/management from a practical or theoretical perspective may be valuable, but is not required.

For all other students 180 hp is required as well as English A + B, or equivalent.

Language of instruction

The language of instruction is specified in the course offering information in the course catalogue.

Intended learning outcomes

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the context of social innovation and social entrepreneurship. Through project work students will increase their understanding of various theories and practices from the field, while being exposed to the action-oriented skills required for developing and implementing a social innovation and/or creating the social-oriented new venture.

Course contents

In our society social needs are addressed in a variety of different ways. Some of these needs are addressed mainly through public organisations, some in private spheres through associations or businesses, and others in informal organisations or maybe not at all. As changes occur in our society, the current practices we use to meet our needs will not necessarily be the same practices we use to meet our needs in the future. In response, a number of initiatives are emerging. The creation of these new initiatives is the focus of this course.

Social innovation involves the identification of new problems and finding new solutions for action, individually or collectively. Entrepreneurship, as the process of developing and carrying out these initiatives, focuses on creating new 'worlds' in our minds, in how we discuss these with others, and finally how we actually carry out concrete activities. Social innovation and entrepreneurship can, and probably will, involve logics from different sectors of society. During the course, ethical, moral and normative issues will be considered in relation to practical examples and project work.

Course topics include (topics are subject to change based on new developments in the field):

- Placing innovation & entrepreneurship in a social context
- Entrepreneurship and practices of different sectors
- Innovation and creativity
- Organizing and mobilizing people
- Financing and risks
- Indicators for success and accountability
- Surviving and growing, or?

Structure

There will be approximately 2 weekly sessions lasting 2 hours each for 7 weeks. Examination will take place in an additional week. The course will start with an introduction of theories in the field and different practical examples. During the second phase students will work on projects and action-oriented skills will be elaborated on in seminars. Through these projects students will be able to identify their area of interest

Teaching methods

A blend of teaching methods including lectures, guest lectures, case analysis and presentations, and group discussions will be used for the course. Furthermore, there will be monologues, dialogues as well as debates with some of the leading players from academia, business, government, and society.

Course literature

Preliminary Literature

Ahrne, G "Social Organizations. Interaction inside, outside and between organizations" 1994

Andersson, Vidar "Berättelser. Verkligheter och möjligheter och sociala entreprenörer" 2001, or Leadbeater, Charles "The Rise of the Social Entrepreneur" 1997

Berg, P-O "Magic in Action" in Czarniawska & Sevón (eds) The Nothern Lights 2003

Berg & Jonsson "Strategisk ledning på politiska marknader" 1991

Hisrich, Freeman, Standley, Yankey & Young "Entrepreneurship in the Not-for-Profit Sector" in Sexton & Smilor (eds) 1997

Hjorth, Johannisson, Steyaert "Entrepreneurship as Discourse and Life Style" in Czarniawska & Sevón (eds) The Nothern Lights 2003

Landström, Hans "Entreprenörskapets Rötter" 2000, or Sexton & Landström in "The Blackwell Handbook of Entrepreneurship" 2000

Morgan, Gareth "Imaginization: New Mindset for Seeing, Organizing, and Managing" 1997

NUTEK "SMEs in Sweden" 2001

Pearce, Johan "Social Audit Workbook" 1996

Roberts Development Fund "Social Return on Investment (SROI) www.redf.org

Sawhill, John "Mission Impossible? Measuring Success in Nonprofit Organizations"

Social Enterprise 2001

Spreckley, Freer "Social Audit Toolkit"

Wijkström & Lundström "Den ideella sektorn" 2002 or The Nonprofit Sector in Sweden 1997

Course Compendium incl. selected readings and articles.

Examination

- PRO1 - Project, 7.5 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

Based on recommendation from KTH's coordinator for disabilities, the examiner will decide how to adapt an examination for students with documented disability.

The examiner may apply another examination format when re-examining individual students.

If the course is discontinued, students may request to be examined during the following two academic years.

Other requirements for final grade

Examination will be conducted through final project work/presentations and class/group contributions. Since this is an emerging field, class discussions will be of great importance. Therefore attendance is prioritised.

Although there will be no formal exam, students will be required to satisfactorily complete all of the course assignments in order to receive a passing grade.

Ethical approach

- All members of a group are responsible for the group's work.
- In any assessment, every student shall honestly disclose any help received and sources used.
- In an oral assessment, every student shall be able to present and answer questions about the entire assignment and solution.