MASTER PROGRAM
DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Seminar
Business & Society in Latin America
Winter Term 2016/2017

General information
Venue: Room 05.054, Kochstr. 4 (17), 91054 Erlangen, Germany
Time: Thursdays 14:15h. – 15:45h.
First compulsory session: Thursday, October 20, 2016

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Syllabus outline
This seminar is designed to discuss and to broaden the awareness of the changing role of business in Latin American societies, and to provide comprehensive theoretical and empirical knowledge to assess the societal challenges that organizations face while trying to contribute to sustainable development in Latin American countries.
Students will examine business actions in various institutional contexts (e.g. economic, political-legal, and socio-cultural) and address critically the relationships between business and society, taking into consideration alternative approaches to management. Contemporary social issues in management will be discussed in an organizational and systemic perspective. From an organizational perspective issues addressed will be: corporate social responsibility, corporate citizenship, stakeholder management, inclusive business, social enterprises and hybrid organizations. From the systemic perspective, topics as: sustainable development, cross-sector interactions and social innovation will be studied.
Educational goals and learning outcomes

Students participating successfully in this seminar will develop the following skills:

Subject-specific skills

• Students analyse the changes in the role of business in Latin American societies taking in consideration multiple institutional contexts (e.g. economic, political-legal, and socio-cultural).
• Students reflect and evaluate the different theoretical approaches that explain the particularities of the business and society relationships in Latin America.
• Students develop and produce a case study that explain in detail a particular issue of the business and society relationships in Latin America.

Methodological skills

• Students answer independently a research question regarding a particular issue related to the business and society relationships in Latin America.
• Students plan, carry out research, evaluate and analyse scientific literature related to an issue considered relevant for the better understanding of the business and society relationships in Latin America.
• Students produce a case study that exemplifies a particular issue related to the business and society relationships in Latin America.

Personal skills

• Students evaluate their own strengths and weaknesses in relation to their own presentation and communication skills.
• Students evaluate their own strengths and weaknesses in relation to their own organizational skills.
• Students reflect upon their own behaviour as part of the global business community under consideration of fundamental ethical questions and the consequences for society.

Social skills

• Students can present clearly and effectively a particular issue related to the complex relationships of business and society in Latin America.
• Students communicate clearly and respectfully their arguments and points of view in classroom.
• Students give fellow students constructive feedback on their presentations.
Course design and assignments

Students gathered during the first compulsory session (on Wednesday, April 13th, 2016) select a topic to work on during the semester. Each topic should be explored in the context of a specific real case study. Proposed topics are listed below and some readings per topic are suggested to get students started on their research. Students are expected to do extensive literature review on the topics selected for their paper assignment. If students are interested in topics that are not listed below, it is possible to discuss the possibility to include other topics related to the content of the seminar, in that case students should bring to the first session, a clear topic statement as well as some few literature references to be used for evaluation and decision making.

During the sessions students present their topic and propose a case study for discussion. Students’ presentations are no longer than 45 minutes including: (1) a theoretical part that should not be longer than 30 minutes, and (2) the presentation of the case study that should not be longer than 15 minutes, so that ample time is left for questions and discussion (a maximum of 90 minutes per topic). Every student will be evaluated individually even if they work in a group basis.

Based on a 360 degrees’ approach towards skills development, students will be active involved into the development and evaluation of presentation skills. For that reason, each student will provide feedback to their colleague’s presentations during every session, and each student will reflect and evaluate the outcome of the own presentation by means of a self assessment form. In addition, the lecturer will provide feedback to every presenter.

With the input received during the presentation and with the results of the case discussion, students prepare their seminar paper that includes a theoretical part and a case study. The seminar paper should approximately have 5000 words (Excluding: Title page, bibliography, exhibits and annexes). Submission deadline for the seminar paper is September 9th, 2016.

Further guidance for writing the seminar paper and preparing presentations will be provided during the first sessions, as well as on the course website for the seminar on the StudOn platform.

Assessment

The final grade of the seminar consists of a presentation that includes a theoretical topic and a case study presentation (33%) and a seminar paper (66%).
Detailed schedule and proposed readings

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 27, 2016</td>
<td>Business &amp; Society relationships in Latin America.</td>
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<td>November 3, 2016</td>
<td>Philanthropy and social change in Latin America</td>
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<td>November 17, 2016</td>
<td>Corporate social responsibility in developing countries, emergent economies and developed countries in comparison.</td>
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<td>• Sachdeva, A. and Panfil, O. (2008), <em>CSR Perceptions and Activities of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Latin America</em>.</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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See the table for recommended literature on business & society and Latin America.

**Recommended literature on business & society**

**Recommended literature on Latin America**

**Recommended literature on case study research methodology and business research**


