



Aalto University

Entrepreneurship & Society

Introduction Session

Virva Salmivaara
virva.salmivaara@aalto.fi

Quick introduction round

Why did you choose this course?

What are your main topical interests?

Any concrete research ideas already?

Course syllabus: Structure & content

1. Learning Content and Outcomes
2. Individual Work Assignment and Evaluation
3. Course Participation
4. General Introductory Readings
5. Exemplary Learning Exercises
6. Style Guideline for Writing your Paper
7. 28 Possible Paper Topics

Implemented feedback from last year's course

Overall, very positive course feedback: > 4

Some critical comments were:

"The supervision sessions should have around 2 weeks in between so that students can have enough time to modify the work."

"The course name seemed a bit misleading first"

"Perhaps more exercises"

Learning content and outcomes

- Overview of entrepreneurship research
- Comprehending and problematizing scientific articles
- Skills in writing an academic paper
- Setting base for Master's thesis work

Assignment & evaluation

- Academic paper of **4500-6000 words** (including abstract, introduction, literature review and theoretical framework)
- **Submission DL:** 10.1.2020 (23:55)
- **28 possible topics.** Choose one (or more) theme(s)
- At least **five academic sources** from top entrepreneurship & management journals
- Grading follows Aalto **Master's Thesis Evaluation Rubrics**

Participation

- Introduction lecture
- Two voluntary feedback sessions:
21.11.–22.11. and 12.–13.12.2019
- Optional learning exercises

Introductory readings and videos

...for a general understanding of entrepreneurship, and for crafting the introduction and literature section (e.g. topic choice, setting the hook)

Style Guidelines

- General format requirements
- Academic paper structure
- Citations in-text
- Language
- References

Basic paper structure

1 INTRODUCTION

- Background ('Setting the hook')
- Research gap, objective(s) and research question(s)
- Describe the structure of the paper

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

- Review part 1 and Review part 2
- Synergizing insights and critical reflection of the literature review, which can potentially lead to a theoretical framework
- Discussing implications and suggestions for future research (e.g. for your own Master's thesis work)

Exemplary learning exercises

- **How to organize an introduction?**

Eg. *hook* for research, *critique* the *state of the literature*, identify a *research problem*, explain the “*so-what?*” – *why does your focus matter?*, explain how the paper is going to address the research problem

- **How to organization a literature review?**

Eg. *chronologically*, *by themes*, *by questions*, *by subtopics...*

Grading follows Rubrics

Problem setting and focus

1. Explication of how your paper relates to a phenomenon of interest in entrepreneurship & management research / adjacent fields in social sciences
2. Specification of the research problem, research objective and/or question

Review of literatures and framing

3. Positioning and framing of the research problem, objectives and/or questions
4. Summary and critical review of the relevant literature in the selected area
5. Development of a concluding (theory-based) framework serving as base for tackling your research objective/question

Grading follows Rubrics

Presentation, critical thinking and conclusion

6. Interpretation of the reviewed literature and theoretical framework developed in light of the core research question raised in the introduction
7. Discussion of theoretical implications and avenues for future studies (and, if suitable, for your own empirical work, such as for your Master's thesis)

Basic criteria

8. Knowledge of ethics in academic research
9. Consistency and coherence of the essay
10. Academic style, language use and readability (Note: Your work will not be marked down if the English is not of native level – this is not a language test!)

28 possible themes

- Try to find the time to read all theme descriptions
- Topic choice is a difficult task – what's your passion?
- Be bold and creative in your focus
- Feel free to merge themes or suggest new ones

QUESTIONS?

