

Management and Strategy Book Club I and II (3 credits each)

Responsible teacher: Henri Schildt

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Summary

The course is organized as an ongoing 'book club', which offers participants opportunities to read recognized popular business books each month. The teaching staff and students will discuss their content together in a group led by different faculty members and teaching staff. The course is scheduled to go through seven books every year, and holding a discussion session for each. To complete each version of the course (I and II), the student must read **three books** and attend the related discussion sessions. Each book is associated with one mandatory 2-3 hour session.

The course will hold sessions at the end of each period and at the beginning of the 1st and 3rd period, offering students seven alternative books to choose from. Thus, both version of the courses (6 credits altogether) can be completed in an academic year by attending 6 out of the 7 sessions.

Course goals

The course has several learning goals for the students involved:

- Develop critical readings skills that allow participants to assess and selectively internalize contents of practitioner-oriented management literature.
- Familiarize students with classic and high-impact frameworks and approaches in the popular management knowledge
- Cultivate a habit of life-long learning by digesting business books, helping participant keep track of new ideas circulating in the business environment

The course is intended for all Aalto School of Business master's level students, but we also encourage others to participate.

Teaching

The discussion related to each book/session will be hosted by a different teacher or facilitator. The facilitators include PhD students, post-doctoral researchers, and professors.

Grading

The course is not graded, but students need to complete 3 or 6 "books" by attending the sessions related to the books they have chosen to read. The responsible teacher assesses that all seminar participants have read the book by administering a short multiple-choice questionnaire at the beginning of the session. Moreover, those clearly unable or unwilling to participate in discussion with severe lack of knowledge concerning the book will be failed for the particular month.

Timetable

The group meets on the Mondays at 16.15 in Arkadia, Töölö campus. For the academic year 2017-18 the exact dates are:

Session # and date	Book	Recognitions
#1 – 11. 9. 2017	Erik Brynjolfsson & Andrew McAfee: The Second Machine Age: Work, Progress, and Prosperity in a Time of Brilliant Technologies	Shortlisted for FT best business book of 2015
#2 – 16. 10. 2017	Adam Grant: Originals: How Non- Conformists Move the World	#1 New York Times bestseller
#3 – 4. 12. 2017	William Golding: Lord of the flies	Golding won the Nobel prize in 1983
#4 – 8. 1. 2017	Duncan Clark: Alibaba	Shortlisted for FT best business book of 2016
#5 – 5. 2. 2018	<i>To be announced</i>	
#6 – 26. 3. 2018		
#7 – 14. 5. 2018		

List of books we read during the 2016-17 academic year

- From Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap... And Others Don't (Jim Collins)
- Creativity, Inc. (Amy Wallace & Edwin Catmull)
- Elon Musk: Tesla, SpaceX, and the Quest for a Fantastic Future (Ashlee Vance)
- Good Strategy / Bad Strategy (Richard Rumelt)
- How Google Works (Eric Schmidt & Jonathan Rosenberg)