

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

Responsible teacher: Philip Gylfe

*Updated: 8.1. 2018*

### 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 sessions 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

There are also a couple of IDBM sessions that students can choose from. The same rules apply for these session but they are hosted by IDBM faculty. If you wish to attend an IDBM reading club session. Email: [miikka.j.lehtonen@aalto.fi](mailto:miikka.j.lehtonen@aalto.fi).

### 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 A410 main building, Töölö campus. For the academic year 2017-18 the exact dates are:

Session # and date	Book	Notes
#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. 2018	Duncan Clark: Alibaba	Shortlisted for FT best business book of 2016
#Special IDBM 12.1.2018. 17:00-20:00. @ CoCreate (C338-339, BIZ main building)	Kelley & Kelley: Creative Confidence	Email: <a href="mailto:miikka.j.lehtonen@aalto.fi">miikka.j.lehtonen@aalto.fi</a>
#5 – 5. 2. 2018	Janesville	FT Best book 2017
#6 – 26. 3. 2018	Clayton Christensen: The Innovator's Dilemma AND "The Disruption Machine" on The New Yorker	Please read the whole book and the reflection article. <a href="http://newyorker.com/magazine/2014/06/23/the-disruption-machine">newyorker.com/magazine/2014/06/23/the-disruption-machine</a>
#7 – 14. 5. 2018	Sheryl Sandberg: Lean in	

## 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)