

21E11001 Dialogues on Corporate Responsibility in Global Economy, 6cr

SYLLABUS – SPRING 2018

Version (16.2.2018)

Instructors' contact information	Course information
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1. OVERVIEW

The main objective of the course is to learn how in-depth dialogue can help us to understand diverse and conflicting understandings, behavior and decision-making on corporate responsibility in global economy. During the course the students will learn what is (and what is not) dialogue, and further, the students will learn to better understand their own and others' thinking and behavior, and act and speak in a more dialogic way. In addition, the participants will learn self-reflexivity and facilitation of dialogues.

This course seeks participants who are willing to challenge their perspectives and ways of conversing with themselves and others. We invite you to engage in a deeper dialogue that seeks to transform the way you and others are connected to issues that are of importance in the societies we live in. Thus, you will not just learn about corporate responsibility in global economy, but also learn to think in constructive ways and act towards increasing responsibility in economic organizing.

This course is a platform for dialogic learning. The course builds on the existing understandings and experiences of the participants. These are complemented with relevant literature on the key themes of the course. During the course you will engage in reading, talking, listening, writing, presenting and reflecting. We will practice dialogue through methods such as listening and voicing exercises, reflective writing, group works, and finally through practicing open dialogue. We will together deepen our understanding of issues such as the 'global economy', sustainable development, economic systems, forms of economic organizing, responsibility, politics and discourse. Towards the end of the course, the students will learn to take responsibility for facilitating dialogues.

Participating in this course requires being present in ten out of eleven sessions, active engagement in and preparation for the course sessions and group works, and writing reflection papers.

2. PRE-ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Write a motivation letter:** Please send a brief letter (at maximum half a page long) to both teachers via email (galina.kallio@aalto.fi and timo@jarvensivu.fi) latest by Friday, April 6th, 2018. Please answer at least these two questions in the letter: Who am I? Why do I want to attend this course?
2. **Attend the personal interview before acceptance to the course:** Short interviews will be held on **Wednesday 11th and Friday 13th, April, 2018**. Please book the time for your 10-15 minute interview as soon as possible via this link: <https://goo.gl/wRTqp3>
3. **Prepare for the first session (Monday 16th, April 2018):** Watch the introductory video (link will be provided on Mycourses). Additionally, read a short article on dialogue from the course material: Bohm, D., Factor, D., and Garrett, P. (1991), Dialogue, A Proposal.

3. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The main objective of the course is to learn how in-depth dialogue can help us to understand diverse and conflicting understandings, behavior and decision-making on corporate responsibility in global economy. During the course the students will learn what is (and what is not) dialogue, and further, the students will learn to better understand their own and others' thinking and behavior, and act and speak in a more dialogic way. In addition, the participants will learn self-reflexivity and facilitation of dialogues.

CONTENT - Students will learn to demonstrate the following **knowledge**:

- Be able to explain the key concepts and approaches - Corporation, Responsibility, Globalization, and Economy – and their linkages with each other.
- Will be able to recognize the roles of various societal actors (civil society, corporations, the state, and people) in forming and reproducing dominant as well as marginal social constructions of the key concepts, approaches and models.
- Be able to analyze the effects that different conceptualizations and meanings of the key concepts have on the way Corporate Responsibility is practiced in the Global Economy.

METHOD - Students will develop the following **skills**:

- Take responsibility to listen to self and others, speak openly and genuinely, and respect other human beings
- Be able to engage in an open dialogue and differentiate dialogue from other forms of conversation
- Know how to facilitate dialogue to deepen collective learning

4. ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Assessment and grading is based on active preparation for and engagement in the sessions, and demonstration of learned knowledge and skills.

- Preparation for and participation in the class sessions, 30% of the grade.
 - Participation in 10 (out of 11) class sessions is required to pass the course.
 - Assessment of preparation and engagement through webropol questionnaire, twice during the course. Self-evaluation and teacher-evaluation (1/2 each).
- Reflection papers, 40 % of the grade.
 - One reflection paper covering two sessions, and final reflection paper, 6 papers in total.
- Group works, 30% of the grade
 - 1/3 self-evaluation, 1/3 peer-evaluation and 1/3 teacher-evaluation.

5. ASSIGNMENTS DURING THE COURSE

- Preparation for the contact sessions: readings & other assigned material
- Reflection papers, 6 pcs.
- Group work #1
- Group work #2

6. READINGS

Subject to change

- Bohm, D., Factor, D., and Garrett, P. (1991), Dialogue, A Proposal.
- Isaacs, W. (1993). Taking Flight: Dialogue, Collective Thinking, and Organizational Learning. Organizational Dynamics. 22 (2), 24-39.
- Banerjee, S. B. (2008). Corporate social responsibility: The good, the bad and the ugly. Critical Sociology, 34(1), 51-79.
- Moore, G. (1999). Corporate moral agency: Review and implications. Journal of Business Ethics, 21(4), 329-343.
- Kallis, Giorgos (2011) In Defence of Degrowth. Ecological Economics, Vol. 70: 873-880.
- Van den Bergh, Jeroen (2011) Environment vs. Growth – A criticism of “degrowth” and a plea for “a-growth”, Ecological Economics, Vol. 70: 881-890.
- Fourcade, M., & Healy, K. (2007). Moral views of market society. Annu. Rev. Sociol., 33, 285-311.
- Scherer & Palazzo (2007), Toward a Political Conception of Corporate Responsibility: Business and Society Seen from a Habermasian Perspective. Academy of Management Review, 32(4), 1096-1120.

7. COURSE WORKLOAD

Classroom hours	40h
Class preparation	50h
Reflection papers	33h
Group work 1 and 2	12h + 25h
Total	160h (6 op)

8. OTHER ISSUES

Max. 25 students. Creative Sustainability programme course, an elective course in the ‘Business leadership’ specialization area in the Management program and in the CEMS program.

Course webpage: <https://mycourses.aalto.fi/course/search.php?search=21E11001>

Ethical rules: Aalto University Code of Academic Integrity and Handling Thereof:
<https://into.aalto.fi/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=3772443>