

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Introduction to Innovation and Entrepreneurship 101 - 11160

Last update 18-08-2025

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Cornerstone program

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st and/or 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Sharon Levite-Vaknin

Coordinator Email: intro101@innovate.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Digital Course: Via Email

Teaching Staff:

Course/Module description:

In an age where technology is creating disruption in the world of work, all university graduates need to prepare themselves. This course will allow participants to learn Innovation and Entrepreneurship fundamentals and how they can help them become more future proof in their careers. The course will focus on how innovation can be developed and enhanced and then will look at the world of entrepreneurship and how it can be relevant for each and every one of the participants. Throughout the course we will introduce and practice the Lean Startup Model, focusing on how to identify real problems for people and then finding solutions for those problems. As an online course, students will watch short videos, use interactive applications, answer online quizzes and develop an idea for a venture (business, social or design). The course will end with a project that presents a model for a real world venture.

Course/Module aims:

- Expose the students to the fields of innovation and entrepreneurship and strengthen their interest in those fields.*
- Highlight the relevance and importance of these fields to the students' everyday life and future careers.*
- Provide the students a macro perspective of the innovation and entrepreneurship fields and the ability to discuss them using professional terms.*
- Familiarize the students with the process of entrepreneurship.*
- Introduce the students to the skill set needed for innovation and entrepreneurship processes.*

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

At the end of the course, students will:

- Understand basic concepts in the fields of innovation and entrepreneurship.*
- Learn to identify the market in which a venture operates.*
- Understand how to identify a problem, its underlying need and how to design potential solutions for it*
- Understand the lean startup methodology and it can be used to develop a solution in the market.*
- Understand what a business model is and how to use the business model canvas to design the business model of a venture.*

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- Understand the importance of design within the venture development process.
 - Know how to articulate the value proposition of a venture
 - Learn how to present a venture successfully and coherently to an audience.

Attendance requirements(%):

Digital Course: no attendance required

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The Course will be in English
(With Hebrew and Arabic Subtitles)

- Asynchronous Online

Assignments

- Quizzes
- Discussions
- Final presentation

students must:

- Complete of all the units in the course
- Complete of all the assignments and quizzes
- Participate in Peer assessment
- Participate in the discussion groups throughout the course

Course/Module Content:

The Course will be in English (With Hebrew and Arabic Subtitles)

1. Introduction: where are we today and what do we want our tomorrow to look like?

How and where does innovation and entrepreneurship present itself in my everyday life?

Changes and disruption to our everyday life. Examples: Education, Transportation, Food and Agro Tech etc.

Why do I need this knowledge and skill set even if I'm not planning to be an entrepreneur?

Academia's role as a leader and supporter of innovation.

Leading technology examples that are relevant to innovation and entrepreneurship such as: Big data, Cloud computing, Automation and Robotics, AI, Nano technologies, 3D printing, etc.

2. Introduction to innovation:

What is innovation

Why is innovation important

Types of innovation

The Innovation process

3. Introduction to entrepreneurship:

What is entrepreneurship (and how is it different from innovation)

Types of entrepreneurship

The Human side of entrepreneurship

Misconceptions about entrepreneurship

The process of developing entrepreneurship

4. From Zero to Hero, part 1: Forming the idea

Why do so many ventures fail?

Introduction to the Lean Startup methodology

Identifying a problem and a need

Ideation- why and how

Assignment 1: Ideating my venture

5. From Zero to Hero, part 2; Who needs it?

Market research- significance, impact, who and how.

Product market fit

Understanding the job

PEST

Porter's 5 forces model

Competitor landscape

SWOT analysis

Assignment 2: My market analysis

6. From Zero to Hero, part 3: Hitting the target

Developing a Value Proposition

Validation

Assignment 3: My value proposition canvas and statement

7. From Zero to hero Hero, part 4: Show me the money

What is a Business model

Example of business models

The business model canvas (BMC)- what is it, why and how to use it

Assignment 4: My BMC

8. From Zero to Hero, part 5: From the look and feel of it

Product design

The impact of design

User experience

Assignment 5; The design whiteboard

9. From Zero to Hero, part 6: Once upon a time..

Storytelling: Why is it important, impact and key elements

What Is a Pitch and How It Is Done

Evaluating a Pitch

Assignment 6: My own elevator pitch- to be submitted in the last unit

10. From Zero to Hero, part 7: Let's get down to business

Financing my venture: The importance, the process and challenges

Finance "Safari": exploring alternatives

The legal side of innovation and entrepreneurship : intro to corporate law- The concept of legal personality, limited liability, ownership structures and implications.

11. From Zero to Hero, part 8: The legal side of innovation and entrepreneurship: intro to IP law

Introduction to IP Law

Patents and Trade Secrets

Copyrights

Designs

Trademarks

12. Looking back into the future:

What can we learn from the case study of Israel - the Startup Nation

The future workforce and your future career

The entrepreneurial mindset

13. Course Summary and Parting Thoughts

Summary: What have we done here? What have you learned?

The role of Academia as a leader and supporter of innovation.

My takeaways from this course

Where do I go from here? How can I learn and practice more?

Assignment 6: My own elevator pitch - submission

Required Reading:

- Blank, S., & Dorf, B. (2020). The startup owner's manual: The step-by-step guide for building a great company. John Wiley & Sons.

Blank, S. Online Web Repository of Materials: [<https://steveblank.com/slides/>]

- Byers, T.H., Dorf, R.C. and Nelson, A.J., (2011). Technology ventures: from idea to enterprise. McGraw-Hill.

- Goldenberg, J., Mazursky, D., & Jacob, G. (2002). Creativity in product innovation. Cambridge University Press.

- Osterwalder, A., & Pigneur, Y. (2010). Business model generation: a handbook for visionaries, game changers, and challengers. John Wiley & Sons.

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- Porter M. E.,(1979) "How Competitive Forces Shape Strategy", Harvard Business Review,(Vol. 57, No. 2, pp. 137–145.
 - Ries, E. (2014). Lean Startup: Founding a company quickly, without risk and successfully . Redline economy.

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 25 %
Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports
/ Forum / Simulation / others 75 %

Additional information:

The course includes work on a weekly basis including 6 exercises within the semester. It is not possible to work on this course in "one shot".