Syllabus

Multinational Corporations in World Politics - 58892

Last update 29-09-2016

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

 Responsible Department: international relations

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Thauer Christian

Coordinator Email: christian.thauer@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Sunday, 13-14.30pm

Teaching Staff:
Dr. christian thauer
**Course/Module description:**
Multinational Corporations (MNCs) are a dominant feature and structuring element of world politics today. This course is an introduction to the debates about MNCs in International Relations and Political Economy. We will discuss the nature, importance and emergence of MNCs, and how and why they matter and exert influence.

The seminar draws on a diverse set of literature and sources: academic books and journal articles, interviews, clips, and documentaries. I recommend in particular one book as a good introduction:


**Course/Module aims:**
Good knowledge of MNCs and FDI in the context of globalization today; good understanding of the theoretical approaches in the context of which these phenomena are explained; analytical skills: relating empirical observations and historical data and narratives to theoretical arguments and discussions; independent research with a variety of sources

**Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:**
Critically discuss and relate theoretical approached to FDI and MNCs to empirical observations; conduct independent research on specific topics related to MNCs in world politics; practical application of knowledge to problem-solving from the perspective of policy makers.

**Attendance requirements(%):**
min. 80%

**Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:** Text discussion, group work, student presentations, lectures

**Course/Module Content:**
Week 1 (27 February 2017) Introduction

1st part: Introduction to the topic; requirements; expectations of participants; questions; introduction to research task
2nd part: Research task

Week 2 (06 March 2017) FDI and MNCs: The nature and relevance of the phenomenon

1st part:
 a.) Conceptual clarifications and methodological challenges: What are MNCs? What is FDI? Why should we care?
 b.) Recent trends and developments - some statistics

2nd part:
Group work - you are a taskforce installed by the CEO of a major domestic corporation specialized in the production and development of security technology/cars, textiles, oil&gas. Should you go multinational? And if so, why? And if not, why not? What parameters define your decision?

Requires readings:
- UNCTAD 2015. World Investment Report, Chapter 1 (pp. 2-21):

Week 3 (20 March 2017) MNCs and Regulatory Dynamics in the Context of Economic Globalization

1st part:
Text discussion
Scenario play - a race to the bottom?

2nd part:
Discussion 1: A race to the top?

Required readings:
Week 4 (27 March 2017) Transnational networks

1st part:
Text discussion

2nd part:
Research task: global value chains

Required readings:

Week 5 (24 April 2017) Limited statehood and shared sovereignty in a post-Westphalian world

Required readings:

Week 6 (08 May 2017) Varieties of Capitalism

Required readings:
Week 7 (15 May 2017) Why Do Firms Exist? The Theory of the Firm

Required readings:

Week 8 (22 May 2017) Theory of the Multinational Firm

Required readings:

Week 9 (29 May 2017) Going global: domestic and international factors

Required readings:

Week 10 (05 June 2017) Corporate social responsibility

Required readings:

Week 11 (12 June 2017) California Effects: Diffusion and the Spread of Global Standards

Required readings:


Movie: The Inside Job.

Required readings:

Week 13 (26 June 2017) End of the term discussion

Required Reading:
Among others:
A. Chan, and R.J. Ross (2003): Racing to the Bottom. Industrial Trade
Cohen, S. D. 2007. Multinational Corporations and Foreign Direct 
Dani Rodrik (2007): How to Save Globalization from its Cheerleaders. The 
Drori, Meyer, Hwang (2009): Global Organization: Rationalization and 
J. Dunning (1995). Reappraising the Eclectic Paradigm in an Age of 
Kahler: Collective Action and Clandestine Networks: The Case of Al Qaeda. 
Krasner, S. D., and T. Risse. 2014. "External Actors, State-Building, 
L. Mosley, S. Uno (2007). Racing to the Bottom or Climbing to the Top? 
M. Kahler (2009). Networked Politics: Agency, Power, Governance, in 
Meyer, Drori, Hwang (2006): World Society and the Proliferation of 
Nobel Prize Committee on O. Williamson, 2009: 
S. Kobrin (2001). Sovereignty@bay: globalization, multinational 
Shelley (2005): The Unholy Trinity: Transnational Crime, Corruption, and 
T. Risse (2013). Transnational Actors and World Politics. In W. 
Thauer, Christian. The Managerial Sources of Corporate Social 
UNCTAD 2014. World Investment Report, Ch 1: 
W. Henisz (2000). The institutional environment for multinational 
31:11, 1471-1502.
741-76.
Actorhood as Dominant Scripts, in: Institutions and Ideology. Research in the 
and Foreign Direct Investment to Developing Countries. International Organization, 
57(1): 175-211.
and Service Provision in Areas of Limited Statehood: Introduction" 
Carlsnaes, T. Risse, and B. Simmons: Handbook of International Relations, 426-453. 
ders.: Networked Politics. Agency, Power, and Governance, Ithaca and 
Economic Globalization and Collective Labor Rights. Comparative Political Studies 
teprise and the international political system. 
evolutionary theory oft he multinational corporation. Journal of International 
Business Studies 24(4), 625-645. 
Formal Organization, in Drori, Meyer, Hwang: Globalization and Organization, Oxford 
University Press, ch. 1. 
Governance 27, no. 4: 545-567. 
 pdf 
In: Ibid. Varieties of Capitalism. The Institutional Foundations of Comparative
Additional Reading Material:


Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 15 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 25 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 60 %
paper

Additional information:
N/A