

## **Teaching Plan: International Business History**

### **1. Details concerning the subject**

Name of the subject: International Business History

Academic year: 2014-2015

Year: Third and Fourth

Period: Second quarter

Degree: ADE/ECO

Code: 21315

Number of ECTS credits: 5

Hours of student dedication: 125

Language: English

Professor: Anna Solé

### **2. Introduction to the subject**

The main purpose of the course is to investigate the influence of historical context on firms and entrepreneurial actions, to analyse the transformation of the internal structure of companies in the long run and to study the consequences of their strategies on economic growth.

Within the economics and business field, the subject applies concepts and theoretical models gained from this and from other courses to companies' behaviour and its transformation in the long run.

Combining lectures with practical seminars and case discussions, Historia de la Empresa particularly devotes lot of time to key topics such as:

- the dynamics of continuity and discontinuity that affect entrepreneurial choices from a comparative and dynamic perspective;
- the impact of variables like space, time, culture, and technology on companies' shapes;
- the role played by national systems in providing opportunities and putting constraints on entrepreneurs and enterprises';
- the identification and management of crucial phases in the growth and development path of companies in the long run.

### 3. Competencies the subject aims to teach

General competencies	Specific competencies
<b>Instrumental competencies</b> 1. Ability to analyse and synthesize 2. Basic general knowledge	1. Knowledge and critical interpretation of the transformations of companies' shapes and entrepreneurial activities from a historical perspective
<b>Structural competencies</b> 3. Application of theoretical knowledge to real situations 4. Investigation capability 5. Ability to learn 6. Ability to work autonomously 7. Skill to flexibly and creatively apply knowledge and adapt it to new contexts and situations 8. Knowledge of other nations' cultures	2. Ability to set the configuration and behaviour of companies in their proper context  3. Skill to identify the crucial elements of a problem  4. Ability to take a multidisciplinary view of problems management and resolution  5. Plan and effectively manage time and activities
<b>Interpersonal competencies</b> 9. Critical skills 10. Ability to work as part of a team	
<b>Other competencies</b> 11. Skill in using an oral and written technical language	

### 4. Contents

Part 1. General issues, approaches and debates.

Part 2. Forms of business organizations

Part 3. Functions of enterprise

Part 4. Enterprise and society

Part 5. National patterns

Part 6. National patterns. Comparative perspective.

### 5. Evaluation

The evaluation of the subject is embedded in a process of continuous testing of knowledge of the content and the capabilities of the students.

To this end, the evaluation of the subject is based on the following two components:

- 1) Seminars and continuous assessment (40% of the final mark):
  - a) active participation in seminars (15%)
  - b) midterm (10%)
  - c) team work (15%)
- 2) Final exam: it will include all the course content and will represent 60% of the final mark.

Students who fail to reach the threshold (4/10) in the first part (seminars and continuous assessment) will have to take an oral exam on the seminars' content.

Students who fail to reach the threshold (4/10) in the second part (final exam) will have to take a written exam on all the course content.

Students who fail to reach a final mark of 5/10 will have to take a written exam on all the course content.

The subsequent final mark will be the average of the mark obtained in the re-examination and of the marks obtained in the parts that had already been assessed.

## **6. References and teaching resources**

### Text book:

Geoffrey Jones and Jonathan Zeitlin (editors), *The Oxford Handbook of Business History*, Oxford U.P., New York, 2008.

Alfred D. Chandler Jr., Franco Amatori, and Takashi Hikino (editors), *Big Business and the Wealth of Nations*, Cambridge U.P., Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1997.

### Other references:

William J. Baumol, Robert E. Litan, and Carl J. Schramm, *Good Capitalism, Bad Capitalism, and the Economics of Growth and Prosperity*, Yale University Press, New Heaven, 2007.

Francesca Carnevali, *Europe's Advantage: Banks and Small Firms in Britain, France, Germany, and Italy since 1918*, Oxford U.P., Oxford-New York, 2005.

Asli M. Colpan, Takashi Hikino, and James R. Lincoln (editors), *The Oxford Handbook of Business Groups*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2010.

Mansel G. Blackford, *The Rise of Modern Business in Great Britain, the United States, and Japan*, Chapel Hill, 1998.

Alfred D. Chandler Jr., *Strategy and Structure. Chapter in the History of American Industrial Enterprise*, MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1962.

Alfred D. Chandler Jr., *Strategy and Structure. Chapter in the History of American Industrial Enterprise*, MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1962.

Alfred D. Chandler Jr., *The visible hand*, Cambridge, Mass. and London, England: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1977.

Alfred D. Chandler Jr., *Scale and Scope*, Cambridge, MA. The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1990.

Alfred D. Chandler Jr., "The Competitive Performance of U.S. Industrial Enterprises since the Second World War", in "Business History Review", no. 68, Spring 1994, pp. 1-71, 1994.

Barry Eichengreen, *The European Economy since 1945. Coordinated Capitalism and Beyond*, Princeton U.P., Princeton, 2007.

Carmen Erro (editor), *Historia Empresarial. Pasado, presente y retos de futuro*, Ariel, Barcelona, 2003.

Robert F. Freeman, *The Struggle for Control of the Modern Corporation: Organizational Change, at General Motors, 1924-1970*, Cambridge U.P., Cambridge (Massachusetts), 2001.

Geoffrey Jones, *Multinationals and Global Capitalism: From the Nineteenth to Twenty-First Century*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2005.

David Landes, *Progreso Tecnológico y Revolución Industrial*, Tecnos, Madrid, 1979.

Tom McCraw (editor), *Creating Modern Capitalism*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1997.

John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge, *The Company. A short history of a revolutionary idea*, The Modern Library, New York, 2003.

Joel Mokyr, *The Enlightened Economy. An Economic History of Britain, 1700-1850*, Yale U.P., London, 2010.

Michael J. Piore and Charles F. Sabel, *La Segunda Ruptura Industrial*, Alianza, Madrid, 1990.

Jan Luiten Van Zanden, *The Long Road to the Industrial Revolution: the European Economy in a Global Perspective, 1000-1800*, Brill Academic Publishers, Leiden, 2009.

#### Teaching resources:

Veronica Binda, "Entre el Estado y las multinacionales: la empresa industrial española en los años de la integración a la CEE", in "Revista de Historia Industrial", vol. 28, 2005.

Albert Carreras and Xavier Tafunell, "La gran empresa en España (1917-1974): una primera

aproximación”, in “Revista de Historia Industrial”, vol. 3, 1993.

Jordi Catalan, “Strategic Policy Revisited: The Origins of Mass Productions in the Motor Industry of Argentina, Korea and Spain, 1945-1987”, in “Business History”, vol. 52, 2010.

Avner Greif, “Teoría de juegos e historia de la empresa”, in “Información Comercial Española”, no. 812, 2004, pp. 9-26.

Santiago López and Jesús María Valdaliso, “Interpretar el negocio: la función de la arquitectura en la empresa”, in “Revista Empresa y Humanismo”, vol. 3, no. 1/01, pp. 125-145.

Núria Puig Raposo, “Una multinacional holandesa en España: la Seda de Barcelona, 1925-1991”, in “Revista de Historia Industrial”, vol. 21, 2002.

Núria Puig Raposo and Paloma Fernández Pérez, “La gran empresa familiar española en el siglo XX: claves de su profesionalización”, in “Revista de la Historia de la Economía y de la Empresa”, vol. 2, 2008.

Mercedes Tatjer, “La industria en Barcelona (1832-1992). Factores de localización y cambio en las áreas fabriles: del centro histórico a la región metropolitana”, in “Scripta Nova. Revista Electrónica de geografía y ciencias sociales”, vol. X, no. 218, 2006.

Jesús M. Valdaliso and Santiago López, “¿Sirve para algo la historia empresarial?”, in Carmen Erro (editor), *Historia Empresarial. Pasado, Presente y Retos de Futuro*, Ariel, Barcelona, 2003, pp. 37-56.

Movie “Wall Street” (1987).

Other supplementary material will be available on “Aula Global”.

## **7. Methodology**

Students are required to do the following activities every week:

- reading and thinking on the teaching resources before the class;
- attending all the lectures and seminars;
- asking questions of the professor during classes;
- answering the professor’s questions during lectures and seminars;
- submitting abstracts, papers and/or team works as requested.

On her side, the professor will:

- present the key contents and concepts during the lectures;
- answer students’ questions;
- evaluate the understanding and learning of the teaching resources, randomly asking students in every lecture;
- coordinate the discussion during seminars.

## 8. Schedule of activities

Week	Class activity	Individual activity
1	Session 1 (8/1) Presentation Session 2 (9/1) Lecture on part 1	Reading of the teaching resources Individual study
2	Session 3 (15/1) Lecture on part 1 Session 4 (16/1) Lecture on part 2	Reading of the teaching resources Individual study
3	Session 5 (22/1) Lecture on part 2 Session 6 (23/1) Lecture on part 2	Reading of the teaching resources Individual study
4	Session 7 (28/1) Seminar 1 Session 8 (29/1) Lecture on part 2 Session 9 (30/1) Lecture on part 2	Reading of the teaching resources Individual study Preparation for the seminar discussion
5	Session 10 (4/2) Seminar 2 Session 11 (5/2) Lecture on part 3 Session 12 (6/2) Test	Reading of the teaching resources Individual study Preparation for the seminar discussion Preparation for the test
6	Session 13 (11/2) Seminar 3 Session 14 (12/2) Lecture on part 3 Session 15 (13/2) Lecture on part 3	Reading of the teaching resources Individual study Preparation for the seminar discussion
7	Session 16 (18/2) Seminar 4 Session 17 (19/2) Lecture on part 4 Session 18 (20/2) Lecture on part 4	Reading of the teaching resources Individual study Preparation for the seminar discussion
8	Session 19 (25/2) Seminar 5 Session 20 (26/2) Lecture on part 4 Session 21 (27/2) Lecture on part 5	Reading of the teaching resources Individual study Preparation for the seminar discussion
9	Session 22 (4/3) Seminar 6 Session 23 (5/3) Lecture on part 5 Session 24 (6/3) Lecture on part 6	Reading of the teaching resources Individual study Preparation for the seminar discussion
10	Session 25 (12/3) Lecture on part 6 Session 26 (13/3) Review	Reading of the teaching resources Individual study

On the web “Aula Global”, students will find a detailed description of the contents of every lecture and seminar.