

## Geography of the Company (C003386)

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h Contact hrs 62.5 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020

|                |       |                  |        |
|----------------|-------|------------------|--------|
| A (semester 2) | Dutch | seminar: coached | 40.0 h |
|                |       | exercises        | 22.5 h |
|                |       | lecture          |        |

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020

|               |      |                    |
|---------------|------|--------------------|
| Witlox, Frank | WE12 | lecturer-in-charge |
|---------------|------|--------------------|

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020

|  | crdts | offering |
|--|-------|----------|
| <a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Science and Technology (main subject Geography)</a> | 5     | A        |
| <a href="#">Master of Science in Geography</a>   | 5     | A        |

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Economic geography, entrepreneurship, location theory, entrepreneurship and regional development

Position of the course

The student is introduced in the broad domain of social and economic geography, and more specifically in the geography of entrepreneurship. Attention is focused on the decision process of becoming an entrepreneur and the location decision of an entrepreneur.

This course meets the next competences of the Master in Geography: 1.4, 1.9, 1.10, 2.2, 2.4, 4.1.

Contents

This course consists of three parts: one theoretical part, one thematich part, and one practical part.

The location decision is one of the most important decisions an firm has to make. Various theories try to explain this decision process. Various classic theories based on the assumption of cost minimization are explained in the first part of this course (von Thünen, Weber, Christaller) as well as some important critiques on this from behaviourisme and marxism. Moreover, this part also provides an introduction to current theoretical approaches such as evolutionary and institutional economic geography.

The second part of this course applies the theoretical insights from the first part to two specific themes: (1) location and transport, (2) clusters and regional development, (3) the demography of firms.

In the practical part, students analyze the geography and governance structure of a chosen commodity chain.

Initial competences

Notions on economy

Final competences

- 1 The student is able to analyze economic data and statistics in a correct way.
- 2 The student understands the decision process on location choices of firms from different perspectives.
- 3 The student is able to analyze the (in)direct effects of firms on regional development.
- 4 The student understand the scientific debate on economic location choice decisions.

#### Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

#### Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

#### Teaching methods

Lecture, seminar: coached exercises

#### Extra information on the teaching methods

Theoretical exposé in which the dialogue with the student is stimulated (usage of examples, theorem, tables, diagrams, cartoons, ...) supplemented with coached exercises. Tentative results of this exercise will be presented during a presentation in which the student receives feedback from teacher and assistant. This feedback is then incorporated into the writing of a scientific paper.

#### Learning materials and price

Syllabus by lecturer (+/- 10 Euro), supplemented by slides of the theoretical exposés which will be available on Ufora

#### References

An extensive list of references is included in the syllabus

#### Course content-related study coaching

Student can rely on assistance and guidance by a member of the assistant academic staff (AAP) via Ufora and on consultation hours.

#### Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

#### Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Oral examination

#### Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Oral examination

#### Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Assignment

#### Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

#### Extra information on the examination methods

Oral examination with written preparation. Details are not that important, overall insight prevails.

Students must participate at all parts of the examination in order to pass this course (exercises and oral examination).

#### Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical evaluation (2/3) and permanent assessment (1/3)