COURSE INSTRUCTIONS PA3 - INNOVATION MANAGEMENT RESEARCH

Welcome to the Innovation Management Research course (PA3).
The course describes and discusses the key topics and the key dominant perspectives on the research on innovation management. It is based on the classical articles in the field and it touches recent advances in the most promising research avenues.
It is divided into four thems which comprises 'The origins and evolution of innovation research', 'Key Concepts and frameworks', 'Innovation organization, processes and actors, 'Environment for innovation'.
The learning platform that will be used is Canvas (https://www.kau.se/logga-in-till-canvas) see further information on kau.se.

Learning outcomes
Upon completion of the course, you should be able to:
– Describe and discuss the most relevant theory and frameworks in the innovation management field
– Identify and evaluate innovation practices carried out by companies, understanding the scope, benefits and challenges.
– Critically reflect on innovation management and discuss gaps and potential areas for new research
– Apply theories and concepts from the innovation management field in their own research
– Engage in discussions with practitioners in the field of innovation management.

Course content

Theme 1- *The origins and evolution of innovation research*
In the first theme we present the classic articles that led to the emergence of the innovation management as a research field. You will be asked to read the classics and we will discuss the aims and issues that made the field break into the management research.
We will also discuss which are the fundamental premises and concepts that are building the innovation management field, and how these are still relevant today. By understanding the key historical concepts, you will draw the basis to be able to interact and discuss the innovation management literature.

Theme 2 - *Key Concepts and frameworks*
This theme is further divided into 3 classes (see the sub-chapters below). The innovation literature builds on some key concepts that sometimes are given for granted, even if they might be interpreted in different ways. Similarly, focusing on innovation management as a whole might imply having a too broad focus, since different schools of thought have highlighted different classifications for what is innovation.
Thus, in this module you will go deep into the two most relevant concepts that are at the basis of innovation: ideas, and creativity. Then, we will discuss how innovation can be classified and explained in different ways based on the inputs and the focus it takes.

Theme 3 - *Organizing for innovation*
Innovation efforts are inherently risky and resource intensive. Although any organization focuses on innovation in some ways, the efforts are often difficult to be translated into actual results. Companies need to be aware of how to organize for innovation: which organizational structures and control systems to adopt, which process, which roles for key actors. Moreover, critical attention needs to be put to the balance between "exploration" of what is new and "exploitation"

of what is already existing and building the competitive advantage. This module is divided into three classes, and you will go deeper into how to organize a firm for innovation; which are the main barriers to innovation and how to solve them, and which are the traditional and emerging ways to manage the innovation processes.

Theme 4 – Environment for innovation

Traditionally, innovation activities were kept isolated within the company. New innovations and technologies were protected from competitors by using, for instance, patents. New ideas were not disclosed to external parties but fully developed and commercialized within the innovating company. In contrast, the current belief is that a closed or isolated innovation approach is no longer effective in today's business environment where companies are not only connected but also dependent on many different stakeholders. Innovation is thus defined as an open and systemic activity where many actors collaborate, contribute and benefit from an idea/technology/innovation. This has led to the new identification of relevant actors providing inputs for innovation such as users and employees.

Course paper

As part of the course, you will be asked to write a paper outline using concepts from the innovation management domain. The outline will be developed in pairs made of two students, and the ideal outcome is an article idea that is relevant for (at least) one student´s PhD thesis. Both of the members are expected to provide their contribution in writing the outline.

Guidance is provided in two formal moments:
- At the final seminar, you will discuss a draft idea of the paper outline, and comment on the other groups' drafts.
- In early January (the date will be set so that everyone can participate), you will present a final version of the paper outline.
- You will receive and give comments from and to other pairs and from the teacher, and you will get some extra time to hand in the final improved version based on the reviews received.

Learning diary

The purpose of writing a learning diary is to guide your learning towards critical thinking and reflection. The main idea is to reflect on what you have heard on the lessons, read in the literature, and experienced in class. This is an individual assignment based on your theoretically grounded reflections on each ofthe themes in the course. A good learning diary summarizes, comments on, and analyzes the content of the different themes. It should not just be a simple review. Your thoughts and commentary may be critical or supportive towards the content and point of view of the lecture or literature. To support your writing, we have defined some questions related to the modules that should be the basis for your reflection:

Theme 1 – The origins and evolution of innovation management research
Reflect on what is innovation and how the concept has developed over years

Theme 2 – Key Concepts and frameworks
Pick one key concept of your choice. Look for a related recent article published in an innovation journal (past 2018), and discuss its findings based on the course literature

Theme 3 – Organizing for innovation
Pick an example of an innovative firm, and discuss their organization based on the course literature

Theme 4 – Environment for innovation

Discuss why companies increasingly leverage on different sources of innovation, relating your argumentation to real world examples

Examination

Completing the course requires successful completion of the three different examination parts:

- Active participation to the final seminar
- Course paper
- Learning diary

Preliminary schedule (please notice that some dates might change)

All the lectures are in presence at Karlstad University. The Q&A and paper presentations are on Zoom.

Date	Hours	Topic
2022-09-01	13-14	Course opening and Q&A (Zoom)
2022-09-29	13-16	Theme 1
2022-09-30	9-12	Theme 2
2022-10-13	13-16	Theme 2
2022-10-14	9-12	Theme 2
2022-10-27	13-16	Theme 3
2022-10-28	9-12	Theme 3
2022-11-10	13-16	Theme 3
2022-11-11	9-12	Theme 4
2022-11-30	13-16	Theme 4
2022-12-01	9-12	Final compulsory seminar
2023-01-12	13-16	Paper presentation (Zoom)