UAB
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Business History

2026/2027

Code: 102095
Credits: 6

Degree programme	Type	Course
Accounting and Finances	OP	4

Contact lecturer

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Group languages

You can consult this information at the end of the document.

Prerequisites

To follow this course, it is highly recommended that students had done the course Economic History.

Objectives

There are two main goals to accomplish.

First of all, this course will start with the analysis of the evolution of business all through the last two centuries and, therefore, to see the changes in size and form. This is for the student to acquire a dynamic vision of business by contrasting theory and historical reality, and to be able to understand the way the determining factors of transformations work in terms of technological changes, resources, potential demand, market structure, financial system, institutional framework... in their magnitude, structure, and in the organization of the enterprises.

Second, this course is about giving the students some knowledge in order to understand the relationship that exists between companies and economic growth. This way, the course will emphasize on the construction of well defined organizational capacities in space and time (nations and regions) and then we will be able to study the relationship between determined forms of business and the intensity of the economic growth.

Learning outcomes

- CM24 (Analyse the inequalities on the grounds of sex/gender and gender bias in the field of knowledge.) Analyse the inequalities on the grounds of sex/gender and gender bias in the field of knowledge.
- CM25 (Analyse the dynamics of the internal functioning of companies in the long term.) Analyse the dynamics of the internal functioning of companies in the long term.
- KM19 (Recognise the factors determining international trade patterns, financial relations and the factors determining the competitiveness of companies.) Recognise the factors determining international trade patterns, financial relations and the factors determining the competitiveness of companies.
- SM23 (Assess the evolution of labour markets and capital in the evolution of the company during the economic development process.) Assess the evolution of labour markets and capital in the evolution of the company during the economic development process.
- SM24 (Assess the existence and dynamic of long-term national and international business models.) Assess the existence and dynamic of long-term national and international business models.

Contents

Block I. THE COMPANY IN THE FIRST INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

1. COMPANY IN THE PROPERTY CAPITALISM

1.1. Origins of the factory system and of the new industrial company

1.2. The new dimensions of the industrial company

1.3. The predominant form of company

1.4. Enterprise within commerce and finances

Block II. SECOND INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND THE BIG MODERN COMPANY: THE EMERGENCE OF CAPITALS MARKET

2. PRECEDENTS OF THE BIG MODERN COMPANY AND THE MODERNIZATION OF THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM

2.1. The railway and the new challenges of business complexity

2.2. The Second Industrial revolution and the integration of the international market

2.3. The modernization of the financial system

3. GROWTH STRATEGIES AND THE NEW COMPETENCE

3.1. Growth strategies

3.2. The new competence

3.3. The new commercialization techniques

3.4. The emergence of the multinational companies

4. DEVELOPMENT OF THE BIG COMPANY AND DIVERSITY OF FINANCING FORMS

4.1. The USA: from the trusts to the big multidivisional company. The role of the Stock Exchange

4.2. Big companies and cooperative capitalism in Germany. The importance of the banks

4.3. Japan: a business and financial integration model

Block III. OTHER FORM OF ENTERPRISES IN THE WESTERN WORLD

5. CONTINUITIES AND CHANGES: FAMILY BUSINESS AND SME

5.1. Family business: the complexities

5.2. the Small and Medium size Companies and the district phenomenon

Block IV: THE COMPANY IN THE LATEST CAPITALIST GLOBALIZATION

6. THE COMPANY IN THE RECENT SUCCESSFUL PROCESSES OF INDUSTRIALIZATION

6.1. The recent industrialization economies: developments, technology transfer paradigms and forms of companies

6.2. Chinese emergent companies

Learning activities and methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Search and extension of complementary materials	14	0.56	SM23, SM24
Study of the material and preparation of study work	55	2.2	CM25, KM19, SM24
Attendance at seminars and conferences	22	0.88	CM25, KM19, SM23

Theory: lectures, case study and reverse class	32.5	1.3	CM25, KM19, SM23, SM24
Exercise resolution, presentations in class and class discussions	17	0.68	CM24, CM25, KM19, SM23

1. Lecture.- The teacher will carry out an analytical conceptualization and an updated synthesis of each of the study topics. The objective of this activity is to facilitate the transmission of knowledge and motivation for historical analysis, which are focused on promoting active and cooperative learning.

2. Innovative methodologies such as the flipped classroom The flipped classroom methodology will be implemented in order to encourage students to analyze different topics, such as family businesses and organizational changes in production.

3. Practical sessions.-The objective of these sessions is to promote, in addition to the specific knowledge of the subject, the improvement and acquisition of various transversal skills by the student. In the classroom, problems or questions raised in relation to different aspects of the syllabus that each student will have previously worked on with the readings or materials indicated will be worked on.

4. Individual work of students based on readings and information research. The guided work is complemented by individual or autonomous group work. The objective of this activity is to enhance the independence of the student in the learning process and provide analytical tools that promote their critical capacity.

5. Tutorials.- The subject teacher will be available to students during the established times to resolve doubts.

6. Virtual Campus.- The Virtual Campus has all the relevant information for monitoring the subject and the different types of materials that the teacher considers basic to advance in the learning process.

7. Use of Artificial Intelligence.- Restricted use.- For this subject, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is allowed exclusively in [support tasks, such as bibliographic or information search, text correction or translations or other situations, provided that they are indicated by the teacher. The student must clearly identify which parts have been generated with this technology, specify the tools used and include a critical reflection on how these have influenced the process and the final result of the activity. The lack of transparency of the use of AI in this assessable activity will be considered a lack of academic honesty and may lead to a partial or total penalty in the grade of the activity, or greater sanctions in serious cases."

Annotation: within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continuous assessment activities

Title	Weight	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Partial exam 2	30%	1.5	0.06	CM25, KM19, SM23, SM24
Practicum	15%	5.5	0.22	CM24, CM25, KM19, SM23
Partial exam 1	30%	1.5	0.06	CM24, CM25, KM19, SM23, SM24
Essay work and/or oral presentation	15%	1	0.04	CM25, SM23, SM24

Assessment System. The assessment consists of four types of activities:

- 30% - Midterm exam
- 40% - Final exam
- 15% - Oral presentation and/or written essay. The specific format of this activity will be determined based on the size and characteristics of the group.

- 15% - Practical assignments

The course will be considered passed if the following two conditions are met:

- The average grade for the course is equal to or higher than 4.9, and
- The final exam grade is equal to or higher than 4.0.
- If a student meets the first requirement but not the second, the average course grade will be adjusted to 4.5, and the student will be eligible to take the resit examination, in accordance with the guidelines detailed in the section \\"*Resit Process*\\" found later in this guide.

If a student meets the second requirement but not the first-or meets neither-then their overall course grade will be the result of the direct application of the above weightings,and may also take the resit exam in accordance with the provisions established in the section "Recovery Process" found below.

Recovery Process

"To participate in the recovery process, students must have previously been assessed in a set of activities representing at least two thirds of the total course grade." Section 3 of Article 112 ter (UAB Academic Regulations). Students must have obtained an average course grade between 3.5 and 4.9. The date of this exam will be scheduled in the Faculty examination calendar. A student who sits and passes it will pass the course with a grade of 5. Otherwise, the original grade will remain unchanged.

ATTENTION:

1. A student is considered "Not Assessed" in this course if they have completed less than 30% of the assessment activities. "The grade of NOT ASSESSED implies exhausting all rights inherent to enrolment in the course."
2. Only midterm and final exams may be rescheduled, and only in exceptional cases and with the explicit approval of the Degree Coordinator. All other types of assessment taken during the course will NOT be rescheduled.
3. This course does not provide a single-assessment system.

Assessment Activity Calendar

The dates of the midterm and final exams are scheduled in the Faculty examination calendar.

"The scheduling of assessment tests cannot be modified unless there is an exceptional and duly justified reason that prevents an assessment activity from taking place. In such cases, the persons responsible for the degree programmes, after consulting the teaching staff and the affected student, will propose a new schedule within the corresponding teaching period." Section 1 of Article 264 (UAB Academic Regulations).

Students of the Faculty of Economics and Business who, in accordance with the paragraph above, need to change an assessment date must submit a request using the following form: e-Formulari per a la reprogramació de proves.

Review of Grades Procedure

Coinciding with the final exam, the date and method for publishing final grades will be announced. Likewise, the procedure, place, date, and time for exam review will be communicated in accordance with University regulations.

Irregularities in evaluation activities

In spite of other disciplinary measures deemed appropriate, and in accordance with current academic regulations, "in the case that the student makes any irregularity that could lead to a significant variation in the grade of an evaluation activity, it will be graded with a 0, regardless of the disciplinary process that can be instructed. In case of various irregularities occur in the evaluation of the same subject, the final grade of this subject will be 0". Section 11 of Article 266. Results of the evaluation. (UAB Academic Regulations).

The completion of assessment activities is subject to the provisions set out in this course guide and in the " Policy of the School of Economics and Business on the Detection of Irregularities during Assessment Activities ", which regulates the conditions under which assessment tasks are conducted and the procedures applicable in cases where indications of irregularities are detected. Students are encouraged to consult the policy.

Bibliography

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Software

Recommended software is Word, Excel and Power Point.

Course groups and languages

The information provided is provisional until November 30. After this date, you will be able to consult the language of each group through this link. To access the information, you will need to enter the course CODE

Type of teaching	Group	Language	Semester	Shift
(TE) Theory	10	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed
(PAUL) Classroom practices	101	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed