uc3m Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Firms & Industries

Academic Year: (2023 / 2024) Review date: 18-04-2023

Department assigned to the subject: Business Administration Department

Coordinating teacher: MELERO MARTIN, EDUARDO

Type: Compulsory ECTS Credits: 3.0

Year: 1 Semester: 1

OBJECTIVES

This subject contributes to the acquisition of the following skills:

- Know how to understand and offer solutions to problems concerning the competitive environment of the company.
- Know how to communicate knowledge, conclusions and final reasons that support them concerning the competitive environment of the company.
- Ability to solve complex problems concerning the competitive environment of the company.
- Ability for critical reasoning on issues concerning the competitive environment of the company
- Ability to offer creative solutions to complex problems concerning the competitive environment of the company
- Ability to analyze and understand the effects on a specific company of government macroeconomic policies
- Ability to understand and apply the main concepts of industrial economics: How imperfect competition works and what strategies companies adopt in imperfect competition environments.

Specifically, these are the expected results of the learning process:

- Understand the structure and sector dynamics in which a company operates.
- Identify the optimal pricing strategies, given the characteristics of the sector.
- Understand the frequently used statistical measures as indexes for the study of the characteristics of the sector, and apply them for the generation of value in the company.
- Master the tools of economic analysis for the application to strategic decision making.
- Master the techniques needed to perform a sector analysis.
- Be able to establish a diagnosis aimed at improving the competitiveness of the company based on the analysis of the environment and the resources needed.
- Be able to anticipate and prevent some of the usual problems that lead to failure of new businesses.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

- 1. Basic game theory for competitive analysis.
- 2. Competitors and competition.
- a. Competitor and market identification.
- b. Market structure.
- 3. Market structure and competition.
- a. Perfect competition.
- b. Monopoly.
- c. Monopolistic competition.
- d. Oligopoly.
- e. Dynamic competition.
- 4. Strategic commitment and market structure.
- 5. Entry and exit strategies and market structur

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

- Class discussion of course's theoretical conents
- Class discussion of practical exercises.
- Individual work on class exercises.
- Team work on case studies
- Presentation of case studies

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

50%: final exam

20%: group case studies 20%: mid-term review test 10%: participation grade

% end-of-term-examination: 50

% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...): 50

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- David Besanko, David Dranove, Mark Shanley & Scott Schaefer Economics of Strategy, 6th Edition, Wiley, 2013

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

- David Besanko and Ronald Braeutigam Microeconomics, John Wiley & Sons Ltd, 2011 (4th edition, International Student)
- Robert Pindyck and Daniel Rubinfeld Microeconomics, Pearson International, 2008 (7th Edition)