Bocconi

Ph.D. Course code 41074

Advances in Corporate Environmental and Political Strategy

Period: a.y. 2026/27 – I sem.

Instructor:

Prof. **Nel Dutt**
Dept. of Mgmt. & Tech. - Room 4-B2-06
nilanjana.dutt@unibocconi.it

Course description

This PhD-level course is designed to deepen students' understanding of advanced topics in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Non-market Strategy, and Political Strategy, specifically as they relate to their second-year papers. The course encourages independent thinking, critical analysis, and scholarly engagement.

The main objective is to equip students with the skills needed to critically evaluate and contribute to the existing body of knowledge in strategic management. This will be achieved through writing and presenting their own papers, as well as engaging with their peers' work. Through a combination of assigned readings and presentations of both their own and others' research projects, students will learn to write better research papers.

Assessment Methods

The course assessment comprises several components that reflect the goals of independent reflection, analysis, and scholarly engagement. The grading scheme is as follows:

1. Final paper (50%): A prerequisite for the class is to have a working paper. This can be the second-year paper, a project with a faculty member or even your master thesis. I will review your papers at the start of class and grade based on the improvement in the paper at the end of class.

2. Participation Grade (30%): Active participation is a crucial aspect of the course. Students are expected to thoroughly engage with the assigned readings, come prepared to class, and actively contribute to discussions with their peers. This component emphasizes the importance of critical thinking and ability to articulate feasible research implementation.

3. Presentation (20%): Each student will be responsible for presenting another student's paper at one

point in the class. The presenting student will be responsible for summarizing and presenting the paper (10 slides or less) in 10 minutes. The presentation should clarify the paper's research question, methods, and findings and will lead the class discussion about the paper. The presenting student should also prepare a set of questions they would like to author of the paper. And before class, the student will assign 5 papers that broadly cover the paper's research area.

The professor will make presentation assignments when students are enrolled in class.

Overall, this course provides a platform for students to engage critically with the CSR, Non-market Strategy, and Political Strategy literatures, develop their research ideas, and refine their academic writing, and presenting skills. By actively participating in discussions, analyzing research papers, asking questions, and presenting their colleagues papers, students will learn to write better papers.

Faculty Bio.

Nel Dutt (nilanjana.dutt@unibocconi.it) – Associate Professor of Management and Technology at Bocconi University. Nel received her PhD in Strategy from the Business School at Duke University, USA and has been teaching at Bocconi since. Nel's researches how external environmental and political factors affect firm performance and strategic change.