

Amsterdam Business Research Institute

**Theoretical Foundations of Entrepreneurship and
Strategy**

Course Manual

Academic year 2025- 2026



Course title	Theoretical Foundations of Entrepreneurship and Strategy
Coordinator(s)	prof. dr. W. Stam
Lecturer(s)	prof. dr. W. Stam
Study period	February 2026 – March 2026 (Period 4)
ECTS	5 ECTS
Tuition	€1250 20% discount on early bird registration: €1000
Course Objective	Upon completion of this course students will have: • Developed knowledge of, and insight into, theories in the field of strategy and entrepreneurship • Acquired the ability to critically analyze and evaluate theories and empirical evidence in the field of strategy and entrepreneurship • Developed the ability to synthesize the literature and integrate knowledge in the field of strategy and entrepreneurship • Developed the ability to make an original scholarly contribution to the field of strategy and entrepreneurship • Developed the ability to effectively communicate with other experts about current theories and research on strategy and entrepreneurship
Course content	This specialization seminar provides students with a solid understanding of the main theories in the fields of strategy and entrepreneurship, as well as insights into the latest developments in these growing research fields. Entrepreneurship research seeks to understand the actions and processes that lead to the creation and transformation of firms and markets, whereas strategy research focuses on how firms develop market strategies, resources and capabilities that enable them to outperform others. The seminar will, first, offer in-depth discussions of the dominant schools of thought in strategy and entrepreneurship (“the classics”), and second, engage students in detailed explorations of several emergent streams of research (“hot topics”). The schools of thought in strategy that will be discussed include: • Industrial organization views of strategy (including the work of Porter and cooperative game theory) • Resource-based views of strategy (including knowledge-based and (dynamic) capabilities views) • Behavioral and evolutionary views of strategy

The schools of thought in entrepreneurship that will be discussed include:

- Economic theories of entrepreneurship (including work on opportunity recognition and the role of risk and uncertainty)
- Psychological theories of entrepreneurship (including work on cognition and emotions)
- Sociological theories of entrepreneurship (including work on social movements and network perspectives)

The current research streams that will be discussed include:

- Stakeholder strategy
- Cooperative strategy
- Social and sustainable entrepreneurship
- Scale-ups and models of entrepreneurial firm growth

Teaching Methods Four hours of classroom interaction per week involving a combination of lectures and student presentations and discussion.

Assessment The final grade consists of the following elements:

- Individual examination (essay-type exam)
- Individual assignment (conceptual paper)
- Class participation

Literature The literature for this course will consist of selected research articles and book chapters in the field. In addition to the prescribed readings, students will actively search for additional relevant articles and there will be possibilities to compile a longer list of additional readings for those students interested in certain topics in pursuing this line of enquiry as part of their own research.

Target Audience Due to the entry requirements of the programme, the courses of the Research Master Business in Society are only available for students registered for this master's programme and, upon approval of the programme director, to other Research Master programmes, MSc Honours or PhD students.

Schedule and Rooms

Wed 1 April 2026	11:00-12:45 & 13:30-15:15	NU-5A65
Wed 8 April 2026	11:00-12:45	NU-5A65
Wed 15 April 2026	11:00-12:45	NU-5A65
Wed 15 April 2026	13:30-15:15	NU-5A59
Wed 22 April 2026	11:00-12:45 & 13:30-15:15	NU-5A59
Wed 6 May 2026	11:00-12:45	NU-5A27
Mon 11 May 2026	11:00-12:45 & 13:30-15:15	NU-5A65