

## **INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND CORPORATE FINANCE: THEORY, POLICY and EMPIRICS (7.5 ETCS)**

**Date and Location:** Monday 9.3 (morning) to Friday 13.3.2015 (afternoon). 12 lectures of 90 min each held at the Knut Wicksell Centre for Financial Studies, Lund University, Lund, Sweden

**Lecturers:** Professor [Lars Persson](#) and Ph.D. [Martin Olsson](#), IFN

**Examination:** Take-home exam (based on a reading list) and a term paper (in the form of an “Economics Letters” article inspired by recent business or policy case).

**Description:** In the wake of the financial crisis, increased attention in economic research has been given to how financial markets affect industrial development. The goal of this Ph.D. level mini-course is to introduce doctoral students in economics and finance to central policy issues at the intersection of industrial organization and corporate finance theory. The course also aims at providing knowledge in how to write empirical papers on policy issues related to firm behavior. The course is organized jointly by the Knut Wicksell Centre for Financial Studies at Lund University, the Department of Economics at Lund University, and the Research Institute of Industrial Economics (IFN). It consists of three parts.

*Product Markets and Competition Law.* A motivation for competition law lies in the fact that strategic investments undertaken by firms sometimes create negative externalities on rival firms and consumers. This implies that there are overinvestments in such business strategies, since the negative effects are not internalized. The lectures in this module are organized around EU Competition Law, that is:

- Merger Regulation 4064/89 in EU (Merger Formation),
- Article 81 in EU Competition Law: Horizontal and Vertical Agreements (Collusion).
- Article 82 in EU Competition Law: Abuse of a Dominant Position (Predation).

These lectures will address, in detail, the externalities between firms and consumers in concentrated markets and how market participants themselves act to internalize them. We will also examine how competition law affects efficiency in the product market.

*Product Markets and Corporate Law.* A motivation for corporate law lies in mitigating conflicts of interest between entrepreneurs/managers and investors. Standard industrial organization models of strategic interaction in markets often make simplifying assumptions about how corporate law determines the functioning of firms. In particular, the owner of the firm, is assumed to have full ownership and complete control of all product market decisions, is entitled to all cash flows, and is not financially constrained. Relaxing these assumptions has at least three implications:

- *The managerial firm:* Corporate law targets to a large extent the relationship between the owners of the firm and the manager. The introduction of managers to the firm raises the question of how corporate governance interacts with product market outcomes.
- *Liquidity constraints and security design:* Corporate law regulates incorporation forms, the power of stakeholders, and liquidation rules surrounding firms. An implication of introducing liquidity-constrained firms is that security design now affects product market outcomes.
- *Partial ownership and ownership allocation:* Separation of ownership and control allows for cross-ownership among rivals in the product market and influences ownership allocation through mergers and acquisitions.

This part of the course will cover how these issues affect policy conclusions that can be drawn from industrial organization models. We will also examine how corporate governance regulations and financial market regulations interact with competition policy.

*Empirical Part.* Theory needs good and sound empirics as support. This part of the course aims at providing knowledge in how to write empirical papers when analyzing firms. With a non-structural approach, the focus will be on how to identify causal effects using different types of identification strategies. The lectures will deal with questions at the intersection of industrial organization, corporate finance, and labor economics

such as how ownership changes affect firms and labor and how firms react to changes in employment protection.

**Application:** The course is open to a limited number of participants. Send a cover letter, your CV, and a recommendation letter from your advisor to Elisabeth Gustafsson ([elisabeth.gustafsson@ifn.se](mailto:elisabeth.gustafsson@ifn.se)) before February 15, 2015. Notification of acceptance will be given by February 20, 2015.

**Funding:** The Swedish House of Finance has generously made funding available for travel and accommodation in Lund during the course. Please specify if you apply for funding in the cover letter and enclose a budget proposal for travel costs. Ph.D. students in finance in the Nordic countries outside of Sweden should apply for financing from the Nordic Finance Network (see more here: <http://nfn.aalto.fi/courses.htm>).