Course Information

This course covers recent topics on corporate political strategy in the management and organizations literature.

Requirements

This course has three requirements: class participation, leading a class discussion(s), and a final paper, which will take the form of a research proposal.

Class participation. Because this course is a seminar, most of the action takes place during class discussion. Thus, all participants should show up prepared to discuss the readings. Please send me a brief (no more than one page) memo on each week’s reading via e-mail by 8:00 a.m. on the day of class, starting with the second class meeting. The memo should be a critical discussion of the major themes of the readings and should end with 2 questions that you would like to see addressed during the discussion. You are allowed to miss one memo over the course of the class.

Discussant. One students will also act as discussant each week. The job of a discussant is to come prepared to highlight the main issues in the readings for the week, clarify the main points of any debates that come up, and direct the discussion around these issues and debates.

As you do the readings, consider not only what the author did wrong--the usual stock in trade of graduate seminars--but what he/she did right. What are the interesting ideas in the paper? If you disagree with an argument, what would it take to convince you? What are the scope conditions--under what circumstances is the argument meant to apply? What modifications would be necessary to extend the argument? Are there critical differences between this author's arguments and those of others we have read? Can these differences be resolved through empirical test? What would a study look like that did this?
**Final Paper** The final paper is intended to get you thinking concretely about designing research that advances the discourse in a particular area (and, not incidentally, to give you practice in writing a dissertation proposal). Proposals are to resemble the front end of an empirical research paper, with theoretical development, hypotheses, and a sketch of a methods section. I will give you more details on this as the time approaches.

October 17: Introduction/Overview

October 24: CPA - Performance Link

October 31: Political Ideology

November 7: CPA and Corporate Social Responsibility
November 14: CPA in Advanced Economies: The Case of the USA

- Mizruchi, M. The Structure of Corporate Political Action: Interfirm Relations and their Consequences, Introduction and Conclusion

November 28: CPA in Emerging Economies: The Case of China


December 5: The Dark Side Of Political Strategy