Syllabus: Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives on Entrepreneurship

Winter 2010

Thursdays 2:30-5:30
Cumnock 230
Harvard Business School

Copies of all readings will be distributed every other week. Readings for the first class will be available from Theresa Gaignard in Rock Center, 3rd Floor (Harvard Business School) one week before the first class (starting on Thursday, January 21st).

Three referee reports will be due over the course of the semester. These are indicated in bold italics. In addition, there will be a final paper proposal, which can build off work you are doing for another class or your thesis.

Josh Lerner and Bill Kerr will teach all sessions with the exception of Session #10 that is taught by Ramana Nanda.

Introduction

Class 1: Kerr (January 28, 2010)

Course Introduction and the “Classics of entrepreneurship”


Module I: The Sources of Entrepreneurship

Class 2: Lerner (February 4)

The sources of entrepreneurs: theory


The sources of entrepreneurs: empirics


Class 3: Lerner (February 11)

Behavioral entrepreneurship


Peer effects and entrepreneurship


Class 4: Kerr (February 18)

Entrepreneurial labor markets: theory


Entrepreneurial labor markets: empirics


Hunt, Jennifer, 2009, Which immigrants are most innovative and entrepreneurial? Distinctions by entry visa, Working paper no. 14920, National Bureau of Economic Research. [REFEREE REPORT #1]

Class 5: Kerr (February 25)

Local industrial characteristics, agglomeration, and entrepreneurship: theory


Local industrial characteristics, agglomeration, and entrepreneurship: evidence


Module II. Entrepreneurship and firm dynamics

Class 6: Kerr (March 4)

Entrepreneurship and industry evolution: theory


**Entrepreneurship and industry evolution: empirics**


**Class 7: Lerner (March 11)**

**Industry races**


*Open source and entrepreneurship*


*No Class for GSAS Spring Break (March 18, 2010)*

**Module III: Entrepreneurial Finance**

**Class 8: Lerner (March 25)**

*Venture capital*


Chemmanur, Thomas, Karthik Krishnan, and Debarshi Nandy, 2009, How does venture capital financing improve efficiency in private firms? A look beneath the surface, Unpublished working paper, Center for Economic Studies. [*REFEREE REPORT #2*]

*Initial public offerings*


**Class 9: Kerr (April 1)**

**Banks**


**Angel investors**


**Class 10: Nanda (April 8)**

*Capital constraints: theory*


*Capital constraints: empirics*


**Module IV: The Real Effects of Entrepreneurship**

**Class 11: Kerr (April 15)**

*Entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic growth: theory*


*Entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic growth: empirics*


*Class 12 and Wrap-Up: Kerr (April 22)*

*Entrepreneurship and economic transition*


de Mel, Suresh, David McKenzie, and Christopher Woodruff, 2007, Returns to capital in microenterprises: Evidence from a field experiment, Unpublished working paper. *[REFEREE REPORT #3]*


*Global entrepreneurial networks and economic growth*

