Syllabus: Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives on Entrepreneurship

Winter 2012

Thursdays 2:30-5:30
Cumnock 220
Harvard Business School

Copies of all readings will be distributed every other week. Readings for the first class will be available from Maurie SuDock in Rock Center, 2nd (Harvard Business School) one week before the first class (starting on Thursday, January 19th). This syllabus lists readings discussed during lectures; more extended reading lists will be distributed in class.

Three referee reports will be due over the course of the semester. These are indicated in bold italics. Each referee report is a job market paper from recent years. 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, Ramana Nanda, and Bill Kerr will teach all sessions.

Introduction

Class 1: Kerr (January 26, 2012)

Course Introduction and the “Classics of entrepreneurship”


Module I: The Sources of Entrepreneurship

Class 2: Lerner (February 2, 2012)

The sources of entrepreneurs: theory


The sources of entrepreneurs: empirics


Class 3: Lerner (February 9, 2012)

Entreprenurial labor markets: theory


Entreprenurial labor markets: empirics


Class 4: Kerr (February 16, 2012)

Local industrial characteristics, agglomeration, and entrepreneurship: theory


Local industrial characteristics, agglomeration, and entrepreneurship: evidence


Module II: Entrepreneurial Finance

Class 5: Nanda (February 23, 2012)

Capital constraints: theory


Capital constraints: empirics


Class 6: Nanda (March 1, 2012)

Banks


Angel investors


Class 7: Lerner (March 8, 2012)

Venture capital


Initial public offerings

Bernstein, Shai, 2012, Does going public affect innovation?, REFEREE REPORT #2.


3/15: No Class for GSAS Spring Break
Module III: Individual and Firm Dynamics related to Entrepreneurship

Class 8: Nanda (March 22, 2012)

Behavioral entrepreneurship


Peer effects and entrepreneurship


Class 9: Kerr (March 29, 2012)

Entrepreneurship and industry evolution: theory


Entrepreneurship and industry evolution: empirics


Class 10: Lerner (April 5, 2012)

Industry races


Open source and entrepreneurship


Williams, Heidi, 2009, Intellectual property rights and innovation: Evidence from the human genome, REFEREE REPORT #3
Module IV: The Real Effects of Entrepreneurship

Class 11: Kerr (April 12, 2012)

Entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic growth: theory


Entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic growth: empirics


Class 12 and Wrap-Up: Nanda (April 19, 2012)

Entrepreneurship and economic transition


Global entrepreneurial networks and economic growth


