



## GRADUATE SCHOOL

### **GM0107 The Geography of Transnational Production Networks, 7.5 higher education credits**

The Geography of Transnational Production Networks, 7,5 högskolepoäng  
*Second Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by School of Business, Economics and Law on 2009-12-18 and was last revised on 2015-12-04 to be valid from 2015-12-04, autumn semester of 2015.

*Field of education:* Social Sciences 100%

*Department:* Graduate School

#### **Position in the educational system**

The course The Geography of Transnational Production Networks, is a programme course included in the Master of Science programme in International Business and Trade at the Graduate School, School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg.

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) Master of Science in Management (S2MAN), 2) Master of Science in Marketing and Consumption (S2MAC), 3) Master of Science in Accounting (S2ACC), 4) Logistics and Transport Management (SLTMM), 5) Master of Science in Economics (S2ECO), 6) Programme in Business and Economics (S1HEG), 7) Master of Science in Logistics and Transport Management (S2LOG), 8) Program in Environmental Social Science (S1SML), 9) Programme in Logistics management (S1LOM), 10) Tourism and Hospitality Management (SITOM), 11) International Business (SIBUM), 12) International Management (SIMAM), 13) Intellectual Capital Management (SICAM), 14) Master of Science in Finance (S2FIN), 15) Master of Science in International Business and Trade (S2IBT), 16) Industrial and Financial Economics (SIFEM), 17) International Accounting (SIACM) and 18) Master of Science in Innovation and Industrial Management (S2IFM)

*Main field of studies*

International Business and Trade

*Specialization*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

**Entry requirements**

To be eligible for the course The Geography of Transnational Production Networks, the participant must fulfil the entrance qualifications for the Master of Science programme in International Business and Trade. For programme specific entrance requirements, see programme syllabus.

**Learning outcomes**

After completing the course, students will have reached an enhanced understanding of similarities, general patterns and trends in the further development of global production networks, drawing on experiences from various economic sectors and geographical contexts. The course should also have broadened the understanding between strategic management within a TNC and the external environment of production networks.

**Course content**

The course is mainly built on cases from various sectors of the extracting-, manufacturing-, and service industries, and from different parts of the world. It aims at deepening the knowledge and understanding of how global production networks of transnational corporations are constructed and functioning from a geographical perspective, including a number of mutually integrated themes, such as the 'global-local' question, the complex internal geographies of the TNC (control and coordination, location of corporate research and development, marketing and sales, production units, logistics, financial coordination etc.).

Four key areas related to the role of foreign direct investments and the organisation of global production networks are analysed. First, attention is paid to the renewed and increased role of transnational corporations in extractive industries, whose presence in many of the world's poorest economies potentially can bring in finance, technology and management skills needed to transform their resources into locally and globally valuable products. At the same time, the extraction of natural resources involves considerable economic, environmental and social challenges, where the objective is to ensure it is done in the most efficient and environmentally friendly manner possible, while at the same time contributing to poverty alleviation and accelerated development.

Second, focus will be on FDI in the manufacturing industries and the role played by leading TNCs for promoting business linkages between foreign affiliates and domestic firms, which can strengthen the domestic enterprise sector, especially in host developing countries. Attention is paid to home- and host-country subcontracting processes, the phenomena of follow-source suppliers and the creation of global suppliers, as well as technology and knowledge transfer processes between the TNC and host-market domestic suppliers, the benefits and costs of outsourcing, and transnational strategic alliances between firms.

The third focus area is the increasing role of services, today making up the largest economic sector in many countries, and which dominate global foreign direct investment. In knowledge-based economies, services are critical to the competitiveness of firms in all sectors, and FDI in services is a key source of financing telecommunications, energy and financial services. New information and communication technologies make it possible to trade in services, making their production increasingly subject to the international division of labour which can offer important benefits for host and home countries, but also risks.

The fourth area of analysis examines the emergence of developing countries and transition economies as significant sources of foreign direct investment and transnational corporations. Underlying factors and broader implications of these recent trends are analysed, e.g. the geographical expansion of sources of finance, technology and management know-how among developing and transitional countries, as well as the growing competition for various resources and assets for developed countries and their firms.

In parallel, the course aims at extending the understanding of the intricate and complex 'bargaining' relationship between states and TNCs, as seen in a geographical context. The role of the state is studied from various angles, e.g. states as containers of distinctive cultures and practices, states as regulators of trade, foreign investment and industry, and states as competitors for location of production and employment.

### **Form of teaching**

Form of teaching: Lectures, seminars and group work.

*Language of instruction:* English

**Assessment**

The learning outcomes will be examined through two individually written case assignments and oral presentations and two written group case assignments and oral presentations.

Participation in all examination seminars is mandatory.

A student who has failed a test twice has the right to change examiner, unless weighty argument can be adduced. The request shall be sent to the Graduate School and has to be in writing.

The Graduate School is obliged to offer the exam at least five times during the course of each two year period. Students who have made five unsuccessful attempts to pass an exam have lost the possibility of obtaining the Master of Science Degree.

**Grades**

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). In order to pass the course, the student must receive pass on all four written case assignments and oral presentations. In order to receive Pass with Distinction on the course, Pass with Distinction is required on the two individually written case assignments, and Pass in the remaining ones.

**Course evaluation**

The course will be evaluated upon completion. The results of the evaluation will be communicated to the students and will function as a guide for the development of the course.

**Additional information**

The syllabus in English is the official binding document.