

Course Syllabus (Tentative)

ISOM1380 Technology and Innovation: Social and Business Perspectives

- Fall semester 2026/2027
- Class Hours: Tuesday 12:00 -1:20 PM & Thursday 12:00-1:20PM
- Venue: Classroom 4580 near lift 27-28
- Instructor: Prof. Xu Yan
- Office: 4074 (LSK); E-mail: xuyan@ust.hk; Office Phone: 2358 7640
- Teaching Assistant: TBC
- Office hours by appointment

Course Description

The technology and innovation management is playing an increasingly important role in enhancing the competitiveness of countries, firms and individuals. This course will provide an overview of the technology and innovation management from strategic perspectives. Students taking this course will understand the fundamentals of technology and innovation strategy and management. They will also obtain knowledge on policy and regulatory issues, such as national innovation system. At the end, participants will acquire a set of powerful analytical tools which are critical for formulating a technology and innovation strategy as an integral part of business strategy.

As innovation refers to the full process from idea generation to the successful commercial launch of the product, people seeking for successful career development should have good understanding of the technology and innovation management both from the technical perspectives and from the business perspectives. In this context, this course is useful for students from every school.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- recall and state fundamentals of technology and innovation strategy
- explain and interpret strategies taken by each individual company
- analyze and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each individual strategy
- produce part of a strategy using a set of powerful analytical tools
- develop teamwork skills, deliver an effective report and presentation in English

Teaching Approach

- Introducing the basic concepts on technology and innovation strategy in lectures
- Using practical examples to interpret and illustrate strategies taken by companies
- Introducing a certain analyzing tools for decision-making. Exercises will be assigned to students on how to use these tools
- Conducting a certain comprehensive case studies and assigning a team project

Assessment Scheme

- The mid-term assignment and the final exam will include multi-choice and filling the blanks questions so as to test if student can recall or state knowledge of the fundamentals
- In addition to multi-choice and filling the blanks questions, part of the short questions in the mid-term assignment and the final exam are designed to test student's ability to explain and interpret technology and innovation strategies
- The team project and part of the short questions in the mid-term assignment and final exam are designed to test students' ability to produce part of a business strategy by using analyzing tools
- The team project report, group presentation and part of the short questions in the mid-term assignment and final examinations are used to test student's ability in analyzing and evaluating strengths and weaknesses of each individual strategy

Students will be graded on the basis of

- a) a mid-term exam (covering lectures before Oct. 8, inclusive) (25%);
- b) a project presentation (25%);
- c) a project essay (25%);
- d) a final exam (covering lectures after Oct. 8, inclusive) (25%).

Student Learning Resources

As the coverage of the lecture is very extensive, no textbook will be suggested while some readings will be assigned throughout the course.

The following book which is downloadable for free will be used for reference:

- Eric von Hippel (2005) *Democratizing Innovation*, MIT Press, downloadable for free from <http://web.mit.edu/evhippel/www/democl.htm>

Schedule (Tentative):

Sept. 1	Introduction Handout: 1. Reading 1 - Xu Yan and YU Chun (2022) Innovation for Hong Kong's Upward Social Mobility, HKUST Business School, Chapter I, II, III
Sept. 3	Introduction
Sept. 8	Economic Implications of Technology and Innovation Handout: 1. Reading 2 – Economic Doctrine 2. Reading 3 - Xu Yan and Min Gong (2003) "National Innovation System and Its Implications for 3G Development in China", <i>Communications and Strategies</i> , No. 52, 2003, pp. 155-174 (Handouts) References: 1. Michael E. Porter (1998) "What is Strategy?" Chapter 2 in Michael E. Porter (1998) <i>On Competition</i> , A Harvard Business Review Book
Sept. 10	Economic Implications of Technology and Innovation
Sept. 15	Strategic Decision Making –Basic Decisions (I) Handout: 1. Reading 4 - Hirotaka Takeuchi, "Fast Retailing Group", Harvard Business School Case (9-711-496) References: 1. Michael E. Porter (1998) "How Competitive Forces Shape Strategy??" Chapter 1 in Michael E. Porter (1998) <i>On Competition</i> , A Harvard Business Review Book 2. James M. Utterback (1994) "Innovation and Industrial Evolution", Chapter 10 in Murray R. Millson and David Wilemon (2007) <i>The Strategy of Managing Innovation and Technology</i> Prentice Hall;
Sept. 17	Strategic Decision Making –Basic Decisions (II)
Sept. 22	Strategic Decision Making –Basic Decisions (III)
Sept. 24	Innovation in China
Sept. 29	Innovation in China
Oct. 1	Public Holiday (National Day Holiday)

Oct. 6	Production Innovation Process and Portfolio Management/Technology Life Cycles and S Curves (I) Handouts: Reading 5 - Robert G Cooper and Michael S. Mills (2005) Succeeding at New Product Development the P&G way: A key element is using the “Innovation Diamond” Reading 6 - Robert G. Cooper, Scott J. Edgett and Elko J. Kleinschmidt, Portfolio management Reading 7 – IBM EBO Case References: - Christensen, Clayton M. (1997) The Innovator's Dilemma: When New Technologies Cause Great Firms to Fail. Boston, MA: Harvard Business School Press
Oct. 8	Production Innovation Process and Portfolio Management/Technology Life Cycles and S Curves (II)
Oct. 13	Mid-term Exam (Part I); (Coverage: Lectures by Oct. 8 inclusive)
Oct. 15	Mid-term Exam (Part II); (Coverage: Lectures by Oct. 8, inclusive)
Oct. 20	Open Innovation (I) Handout: Reading 8 – Xu Yan and Minyi Huang, "Leveraging University Research within the Context of Open Innovation: The Case of Huawei", <i>Telecommunications Policy</i>, 46, 2, 2022, 101956 Reading 9 - Xu Yan and Yu Chun, “Strengths and Weaknesses of Hong Kong’s Technology and Innovation Industry with reference to the Extended Open Innovation Model”, <i>Journal of Science and Technology Policy in China</i>, 4, 3, 2013, 180-194 References: - Chesbrough, Henry W. (2003) Open Innovation: The New Imperative for Creating and Profiting from Technology. Boston: Harvard Business School Press
Oct. 22	Open Innovation (II)
Oct. 27	Intellectual Property Management (I) References: Margaret A. White and Garry D. Bruton (2007) <i>The Management of Technology and Innovation</i>, Thomson South-Western Chapter 6 Pages 210-221
Oct. 29	Intellectual Property Management (II)

Nov. 3	User Innovation – Democracy of Innovation (I) References: 1. Eric Von Hippel (2005) <i>Democratizing Innovation</i>, MIT Press, downloadable for free from http://web.mit.edu/evhippel/www/democ1.htm, Chapter 1 2. Karahanna, E., Xu, S.X., Xu, Y., and Zhang, A.N., "The Needs-Affordances-Features (NAF) Perspective for the Use of Social Media", <i>MIS Quarterly</i>, 42, 3, 2018, 737-756
Nov. 5	User Innovation – Democracy of Innovation (II)
Nov. 10	User Innovation – Democracy of Innovation (III)
Nov. 12	The Adoption of Innovation (I) Handout: 1. Reading 10 - Xu Yan, Min Gong and James Y.L. Thong (2006) “Two Tales of One Service: User Acceptance of Short Message Service (SMS) in Hong Kong and China”, <i>Info</i>, Vol. 8, No. 1, 2006, pp.16-28 References: 1. Everett M. Rogers (2003) <i>Diffusion of Innovations</i>, New York; Free Press; 2. Schoshana Zuboff and James Maxmin (2002) <i>The Support Economy : Why Corporations are Failing Individuals and the Next Episode of Capitalism</i>, New York: Viking Press
Nov. 17	The Adoption of Innovation (II)
Nov. 19	The Adoption of Innovation (III)
Nov. 24	Project Presentation
Nov. 26	Project Presentation
Dec. 7-19	Final Exam

Academic Honesty

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology is a community designed for scholarship — for teaching, learning and research.

Academic integrity and honesty are critical values in upholding HKUST's reputation as a community of scholars and its claim to the "intellectual property" created by staff and students. All students who join HKUST are committed to an Academic Honor Code.

All staff and students should be aware of the regulations that deal with academic integrity and honesty and work together to maintain the highest standards.

For details, please visit <http://www.ust.hk/vpaa/integrity/student-1.html>

AI Policy

You are permitted to use generative AI to support your studies in this course; however, generating drafts of your report using AI is strictly prohibited. Any use of AI must be properly acknowledged in the report.

Learning Environment

For general guidelines about proper classroom behavior, please refer to:
http://www.ust.hk/vpaa/conduct/good_learning_experience.pps