Hand-out Behavioural Operations Management

WS 2018/2019, version: 9 October 2018

Please note: This document reflects our planning before the term started; it will not be updated regularly. For short-term changes regarding rooms or times, see Campus. Changes regarding the content will be discussed in class and, if appropriate, communicated via Ilias.

Technicalities

One semester course, taught every second semester in the winter term.

Six credit points; on average, four contact hours per week. Taught in English.

Course coordinator and lecturer: Prof Dr Andreas Größler; tutorials: Ivan Dula and Manuel Brauch

Part of the MSc study programme in (technically oriented) business administration.

Learning objectives

After successfully finishing the course, students can:

- name and identify managerial decision-making biases;
- discuss relevant experiments in the behavioural operations management literature;
- understand and evaluate improvement guidelines for operations’ decision-making;
- design simple experiments in the realm of dynamic decision making.

Content

The course discusses managerial decision-making, cognition, and biases from an operations point of view, i.e. not only decision-making in high-level management teams are considered but also decision-making on the shop floor. The effects of behavioural factors on organisational value creation processes is in the centre of interest. Experiments on the topic are presented and, partially, repeated in class. Students learn about simple experiments to investigate dynamic decision making.

Timetable

Lectures will be held on Thursdays, 09:45-11:15 in M 11.82.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18/10/2018</td>
<td>Introduction to department and to the course; course logistics; definition of behavioural operations management</td>
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<tr>
<td>25/10/2018</td>
<td>Foundations of behavioural operations</td>
<td>Bendoly et al., ch. 1</td>
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Experiments as the primary way of investigation in behavioural operations

Bendoly et al., ch. 2

Constraints and variability

Gupta & Boyd, 2008

Behavioural aspects in process analysis

Boudreau et al., 2003

Process control and improvement

Langer, 1975

Human behaviour in scheduling

Jackson et al., 2004

Mid-term assessment

Motivation and performance in work design

Zuffo, 2011

Endogenous effects of behaviour on performance

Baines et al., 2004

Pull-to-centre effects in supply lines

Schweitzer & Cachon, 2000

Guest lecture: Prof Florian Kapmeier (ESB Reutlingen)—Price forecasting in a commodity market


Please read the chapter/article indicated before the lecture. Together with the tutorial in that week, this prepares part of the content that is covered in the lecture.

Plan of tutorials

Tutorials will take place on Mondays, 08:00-09:30, in M 17.81, starting on 12/11/2018.

| Date       | Topic                                         | Laptop needed?
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/11/2018</td>
<td>Jewellery restoration</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>19/11/2018</td>
<td>Kristen’s Cookie Company</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>26/11/2018</td>
<td>Statapult competition</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/12/2018</td>
<td>Furniture manufacturing case</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>10/12/2018</td>
<td>Roles and processes in retailing</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>17/12/2018</td>
<td>Stickle Bricks production line</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/01/2019</td>
<td>Humanitarian logistics: “Kicking the mean habit”</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>14/01/2019</td>
<td>Salt seller game</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>21/01/2019</td>
<td>Coffee value chain</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>28/01/2019</td>
<td>Sharing the risk</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/02/2019</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
<td>No</td>
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Examination

Assessment will be carried out by means of a written exam (90%) and a short multiple-choice mid-term assessment during a regular class (10%; for date see time table). The mid-term assessment cannot be retaken or be written at another date. In total, 50% of all points are necessary to pass the course with 6 credit points. The content of the exam comprises all topics discussed in either the lectures or tutorials plus all required reading assignments (see timetable). Participating in the tutorials is expected from all students.
Literature


