

Doubt, corruption and A.I.: What literature teaches us about managing complexity

UGRA_013034

Departments	Department of Society, Politics and Sustainability
Teaching Languages	English
ECTS	2
Teacher responsible	Pastor Olives Clara - clara.pastor1@esade.edu

Course Goals

- * Learn to identify the themes in fictional works and the author's intent in his/her way of presenting them.
- * Learn to develop their own critical insight in relation to fictional works (this applies to literature, but also to film, theater and documentary).
- * Learn to apply the situations depicted in fiction to real life scenarios and draw conclusions that can be helpful in developing their skills as future leaders and managers.
- * An important part of this course is learning to put one's thoughts in order and to express them intelligently to an audience that may or may not be sympathetic. This is an essential tool for any student that aspires to a position of responsibility.

Previous knowledge

No previous knowledge required.

Prerequisites

None.

Description

Course contribution to program

The idea behind this course is that works of fiction provide excellent material for analyzing human behavior, the structure of organizations and the different roles taken by individuals according to their own interests and potential. They can thus equip students and later professionals whose core competencies are in management, finance, law or technology with a keener perception of the situations they will be facing in their professional lives.

Class participation is the essential component of this course. The professor will provide all the background you need for understanding and forming your own views on the fictional works we will be analyzing. Additional reading and viewing (i.e. film adaptations of these works) suggestions will also be provided. Though these are not mandatory, they may help students broaden their perspective and will certainly enrich class discussion.

Sharing your opinions and experience will be a key aspect of the course. As stated in the Learning Objectives and Competencies section, one of its goals is to gain confidence in expressing one's thoughts before the group and in exchanging perspectives with others whose views may diverge from our own: enriching our own outlook is one of the essential tools for managing diversity and leading working teams.

Short description

In this course we will read and discuss three short works of contemporary literature: *Doubt*, by John Patrick Shanley (2005 winner of the Pulitzer prize for drama), "The Vengeful Creditor", by the Nigerian writer and scholar Chinua Achebe and *The Machine Stops*, a work of proto science fiction by E.M. Foster published in 1909. These works provide vivid representations of three very different scenarios in which the tensions and complexity of human relations come to life, inviting us to reflect on issues such as hierarchy, use and misuse of power, the rise of corruption, individual conscience vs collective order and the demands of an increasingly mechanized society. We will pay specific attention to how these fictional representations provide insight on how to handle challenging situations and on how they can be used as a valuable tool to obtain a better knowledge of others and of ourselves in order to develop our skills as future leaders and managers. Class participation is the essential component of this course. The professor will provide all the background you need for understanding and forming your own views on the fictional works we will be analyzing. The workload will consist of reading assignments and preparation for class discussion,

Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
In-class analysis and discussion of issues	Attendance and class participation	Retake and ordinary round	30.00%
Quizzes/tests	In-class quizzes and presentations	Retake and ordinary round	30.00%
Final individual project	Final paper	Retake and ordinary round	40.00%

PROGRAMS

BBA20-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)
BBA20 Year 1 (Optative)

BBA23-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)
BBA23 Year 1 (Optative)

DBAI23-Double Degree in Business Administration and Artificial Intelligence for Business (Undergraduates: Business)
DBAI23 Year 1 (Optative)