PhD Course on Corporate Social Responsibility
(7.5 ECTS credits)

We meet for five seminar sessions during spring 2018
April, 3, 2018 (9 am – 1 pm)
April, 4, 2018 (9 am – 1 pm)
May, 2, 2018 (9 am – 1 pm)
May, 14, 2018 (9 am – 1 pm)

...and of course, one day of examination and grand final(!) June, 7, 2018 (10 am – 5 pm)

Please find more information about the course in this document

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For further details about the course, please do not hesitate to email me at Susanne.Arvidsson@fek.lu.se
PhD Course on Corporate Social Responsibility’ (7.5 ects credit)

Supervised by: Susanne Arvidsson (susanne.arvidsson@fe.k.lu.se)

Credits: 7.5 ECTS credits

Time and structure of the course: The course will first be held during the spring term 2016 (early April to early June) compromising five days of seminar sessions on different themes (see below). The readings for the seminars will primarily be journal articles and participants will be encouraged to supplement these with their own selected texts. The course closes with the examination of individual written assignments (seminar session 6). The exact schedule will be decided on in participation with course participants. Guest lecturers will be invited to the seminars to present relevant CSR research. During the course, participants will be asked to present their own PhD projects. They will have an opportunity to receive feedback on their project from faculty and other course participants.

1. Course objectives:
The PhD course aims to give an advanced introduction to the theoretical frameworks, research interests, methodologies and discussions in the research field related to CSR. The course also addresses and aims to give basic insights in different research methods used to explore different phenomena related to CSR.

2. Contents
The precise content of the course will be influenced by the participants’ interests and preferences, but in essence the course will cover topics as:

- the concept of CSR
- shareholder theory vs stakeholder theory in the debate around CSR
- CSR and legitimacy theory
- classifications of CSR
- research methods used in CSR research
- International, national and corporate initiatives in the area of CSR: Recognition, measurement and disclosure

Below is a presentation of the content related to the four seminar sessions:

Seminar session 1
1. Introduction
2. The concept of CSR: A background

Seminar session 2
3. Shareholder vs. stakeholder theory
4. CSR and legitimacy theory
Seminar session 3
5. Classifications of CSR
6. Examples of research methods used in the CSR field

Seminar session 4
7. CSR initiatives taken at national and/or international level: Recognition, measurement, disclosure
8. Corporate initiatives/achievements in the area of CSR: Recognition, measurement, disclosure
9. Future research directions in the CSR field

Seminar session 5
Examination

3. Outcomes
By the end of the course, a participant will:
- have achieved a thorough understanding of the theoretical foundations and reasoning underlying CSR research.
- have achieved greater understanding of the background and development of the research field CSR.
- have achieved greater understanding of the prerequisites and the applicability of using certain methods to answer questions posed in the CSR field.
- have an ability to communicate on issues, debates and problems in the CSR field both orally and in writing.

4. Literature
Compendium of journal articles (including the following)


**Reference books**


**Other reference sources**


Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) [https://www.globalreporting.org](https://www.globalreporting.org)

UN Global Compact [https://www.unglobalcompact.org](https://www.unglobalcompact.org)


### 5. Assessment

Assessment is based on active participation in the seminar sessions and an end-of-course written individual assignment of reflecting character.
To pass the PhD course, the participant must actively take part in the scheduled activities (80 per cent attendance) and have all assignments approved.

6. Grading
Grades are Pass or Fail