



Course Unit: **Systems Theory & Interconnected Thinking**

Semester	-
Hours/week	Workshop
Contact Hours	
Individual Study Hours	

Language of Tuition	English
Group Size	30
Credit (ECTS) Points	2
Lecturer	Busse

Objectives: Graduates in Business Administration need to demonstrate and apply skills beyond the expertise in their own respective subject areas. In addition to methodological competence they need to develop their teamwork skills and train their ability to reflect their own behaviour in corporate contexts. In addition, topics like creative thought and conflict resolution are introduced as well as methods for the evaluation of social skills.

These competencies are essential for companies of every size . but especially for small and medium-sized enterprises with their low level of specialization at leadership level and the lower extent to which a systematic division of labour is typically realized. After the successful completion of this course unit, students will be able to structure, present and support their ideas and concepts effectively . paying special attention to the needs of international corporate environments.

In particular, they

- understand the relevance of systems theory and cybernetics for the analysis and description of links of causes and effects in corporate contexts.
- learn to apply techniques for the visualization and analysis of complex inter-related problems.

Content:

- Systems: Systems Theory and Cybernetics
- Effects: Systemic Links
- Methods: Holistic Problem-Solving
- Workshop: Construction, analysis and use of model networks

Methods:

Interactive seminar discussions (workshop). Case studies will be used to illustrate the concepts of systems theory and cybernetics. Teamwork assignments will be processed in small student teams.

Cross-functional Skills:

Negotiation and teamwork skills; integrated problem-solving
 Initiative, independence
 Presentation skills and negotiation skills for international contexts
 Leadership skills
 Analytical skills

Assessment:

Successful completion of the workshop and the teamwork assignments.

Active and regular participation is compulsory

Literature

Vester, Frederic, The Art of Interconnected Thinking 2007 MCB.
 Dörner: Dietrich. The Logic of Failure: Recognizing And Avoiding Error In Complex Situations.
 Ulrich/Probst: Anleitung zum ganzheitlichen Denken und Handeln.
 Vester, Frederic: Unsere Welt - ein vernetztes System.