Leadership Principles and Agile Management

Course description (Syllabus)

6 ECTS
Valid from: 2021 Spring semester (proposal)

Main field of study
STEMM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine

Course level
Third cycle

Course offered for
PhD students, post-docs, and other professionals at LiU interested in acquiring an engineering approach to leadership and Agile project management.

Specific information
This is an engineering course designed for PhD students, but suitable also for post-docs and other professionals, who wish to acquire leadership and management skills in order to improve their work performance, and get ready for their next step, which can either be a career development in academia or a transition to industry. Not only scientists and engineers, but also any other professionals are most welcome, due to the intuitive and easy-to-follow approach to the subject.

Entry requirements
To be admitted to this course, the participants should have completed an MSc degree.

Prerequisites
Aside from understanding some engineering terminology, no specific prerequisites are needed.

Intended learning outcomes
Regardless of your specific career goals and experience level, there is an increased need of talented professionals able to lead teams and exceed goals. From identifying key problems and building team dynamics to innovating complex solutions and setting objectives, leaders and Agile project managers are key players in a corporate structure that thrives on efficiency and productivity.

After completing this course, the students should be able to accelerate and improve decisions by learning Agile’s facilitating leadership principles to unleash productivity, motivation, problem solving, and strategic thinking. They should be able to:

- Make better and faster decisions
- Increase self-motivation and productivity
- Improve time management and problem solving
- Use negotiation styles and techniques
- Manage conflicts
- Work more effectively in and as teams
- Develop emotional intelligence (EQ) skills for improved performance at work
Course content
In this course, you will acquire versatile and popular elements of leadership and Agile project management by combining the field’s primary methodologies and tactics. This course will serve as a professional training to enter better prepared the job market after the end of your PhD studies. This one-stop resource for getting started will prepare you to ace the first exams for the world-renowned Project Management Professionals (PMP) certification. Leadership is a skill for any role, independent of the position or type of job you have or are looking for. Agile project management is an innovative approach, very different from traditional project management, that companies – both in Sweden and abroad – are more and more adopting. Old-style of command-control are now belonging to the past, except for the most conservative organizations. Agile takes self-empowerment to new levels and challenges traditional beliefs in what leadership means.

In this course, you will learn about:

- Self-empowerment and motivation enhancement to gain better decisions
- Getting things done, ensuring success
- Delivering on time and on budget
- Negotiation styles and techniques across individuals and teams
- Managing bias through mindfulness and emotional intelligence (EQ)
- Facilitation of creativity and inclusivity for a high-functioning team
- Identification and management of decision making processes

Teaching and working methods
This course combines lectures, seminars, and tutorials with practical exercises, study aids, prep tips, discussion forums, and other longer-term engagement from students with the purpose of creating an active learning environment and meaningful student interaction, supported by sustained, freewheeling conversation. The class hours will be alternated with remote activities in a way that gives the students greater control of their own schedule and priorities, more freedom to reflect and respond with deeper thinking, and more sophisticated arguments than is possible in a classroom setting. Course participants are expected to be mature students willing to learn new skills, and contribute in building a community of future leaders.

Examination
The course is examined based on an active participation at the proposed learning activities as well as through assessment of the individual assignments. The final examination task will be in the form of a presentation or short essay.

Grades
Two grade scale, Pass (G) or Fail (U).

Teaching and examination language
The teaching and examination language is English.

Other information
The course is conducted in a manner where both men’s and women’s experience and knowledge are made visible and developed.

Course responsible/Examiner
Donatella Puglisi, donatella.puglisi@liu.se

Course literature
Recommended reading will be provided before the start of the course.