



School of Economics and Management

EKHM80, Comparative Analysis of Economic Change, 7.5 credits

Komparativ analys av ekonomisk förändring, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by The Board of the Department of Economic History on 2016-10-11 and was valid from 2017-01-16, spring semester 2017.

General Information

This is a course at the graduate level, which can become part of a Master of Science degree. The course is mandatory for the master's programmes EAEUT Economic Development and Growth, EAETU Economic Growth, Population and Development track EKHI Economic History and EAISD Innovation and Spatial Dynamics (year 2). It is optional at the master's programme EAETU Economic Growth, Population and Development, tracks EKDE Economic Demography and EKDE Economic Development, and at the master's programme EAGCH International Economics with a Focus on China. It can also be studied as a single-subject course.

Main field of studies

Economic History

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On a general level the student will acquire advanced knowledge about the application of methodology in economic history.

More specifically, students will:

Knowledge and understanding

- have insights in methodological approaches of economic history to problems of economic change and causality

- have knowledge in key concepts in quantitative economic history, such as national income, living standards, the index number problem, and structural analysis

Competence and skills

- be able to apply quantitative tools in comparative analyses of countries or regions over the long-term

Judgement and approach

- be able to evaluate, critically analyse and present empirical studies within the context of an economic historical approach

Course content

The content of the course is delimited of both teaching and literature.

Overall structure and content

In economic history approaches as different as those emphasizing institutions or culture, equilibrium models, evolutionary and structural analysis are used, yet often with a long-term perspective and employing diverse quantitative methods. A key issue for the different approaches is the problem of causality, which is a theme through this course with, for example, a discussion of explorative approaches versus hypothesis testing.

The course particularly focuses on problems in quantitative comparisons of economic aspects across countries, or regions, and over the long term. Such comparisons may not only be interesting per se but are also relevant for questions about convergence/divergence, and market integration, etc. For example, the construction of national income, and measures of living standards as well as comparisons of wages and prices are studied. Crucial for both long-term and spatial comparisons is the conversion of current values into constant prices and a common currency. Index construction is a way to handle such problems, however, indices themselves are not straightforward, as signified by "the index problem." It has been found, though, that the index problem can be used as a tool for research, which leads further to structural analysis and concepts such as shift-share, development blocks, transformation and economic cycles. Central in structural analysis is decomposition of complex phenomena and useful techniques such as principal component and network analysis are treated. Students will learn about the use and limitations of different methods through an examination of studies in the literature as well as through exercises.

Course design

The course is designed as a series of lectures, exercises and work with projects reports.

Assessment

Grading is based on individual performance, via written exams, paper, presentations and other mandatory activities. Attendance at no less than three of four teaching occasions is required.

The University views plagiarism very seriously, and will take disciplinary actions against students for any kind of attempted malpractice in examinations and assessments. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other unfair practice in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

At the School of Economics and Management grades are awarded in accordance with a criterion-based grading scale UA:

A: Excellent

B: Very good

C: Good

D: Satisfactory

E: Sufficient

U: Fail

Grade (Definition). Characteristic

A (Excellent). A distinguished result that is excellent with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.

B (Very good). A very good result with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.

C (Good). The result is of a good standard with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought and lives up to expectations.

D (Satisfactory). The result is of a satisfactory standard with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.

E (Sufficient). The result satisfies the minimum requirements with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought, but not more.

F (Fail). The result does not meet the minimum requirements with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.

To pass the course, the students must have been awarded the grade of E or higher.

Students who do not obtain grades A-E on their written class room exam will be offered opportunities to retake the exam in which case the student will be assessed according to regular procedure. In the case of home exams that are handed in after the set deadline the teacher can: a) hand out a new exam which will be assessed according to regular procedure, b) may penalize the student by handing out a lower grade on the assignment in question unless the student can demonstrate special circumstances for the delay.

Entry requirements

Students accepted for the following master's programmes are qualified for this course: EAETU Economic Growth, Population, and Development, EAEUT Economic Growth and Development, EAISD Innovation and Spatial Dynamics EAGCH International Economics with a Focus on China. Other students applying for this course should have at least 60 credit points in either economic history, economics, history, economic and social geography, sociology or the equivalent knowledge.

Further information

This course was previously labelled EKH481, EKHM11 and EKHM20/EKHN20, and cannot be included in the same degree as any of these Courses.