

EKHT33, Economic History: Advanced Topics in Economic History - Good Government - law, property rights and development, 7.5 credits

Ekonomisk historia: Fördjupningskurs i ekonomisk historia - Gott styre - lag, äganderätt och utveckling, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Department of Economic History on 2017-04-04 to be valid from 2017-08-28, autumn semester 2017.

General Information

This is a graduate level course, which can become one of two mandatory tutorial courses in the second year of the master's program EAETU Economic Growth, Population Studies and Development, track EKHI Economic History.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Economic History

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On a general level the student will acquire advanced knowledge about the New Institutional Economics school of thought. During the course the student will read and discuss about theories as to how legal structures allowed for growth in the past, and how adjusting legal structures might help advance developing countries. Particular attention will go to the development of property rights systems and differences in conflict resolution across the globe. The student will acquire an overview of current discussions about how to measure and evaluate the quality of institutions, why beneficial institutions do not simply emerge or prevail, and how to implement institutions beneficial for growth. More specifically, to pass the assessments students will be expected to:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate familiarity with the concept of property rights, including how property rights can be created and exercised
- have an understanding of problems surrounding institutional change, including institutional sclerosis, rent seeking and existing legal cultures

Competence and skills

- apply theories and analytical concepts in the literature of New Institutional Economics and critically examine their limitations

Judgement and approach

- present and defend theoretically and empirically sound analyses of property right development
- analyse and evaluate institutional development among historical societies and present-day economies
- evaluate indicators used in scholarly literature to estimate transaction costs

Course content

Most scholars would agree that 'good government' is a prerequisite for economic development: societies that do not manage to protect property rights will not be able to achieve an efficient allocation of production factors. They will also not be able to attract foreign investors. Which property rights systems are beneficial to growth, how they emerged, and they can be introduced in developing societies, are key issues in economic history.

The course discusses the development of the concept of property in the long run, as well as the history of property rights systems, and their implications for development. It also asks how such a long-run approach can help us understand how to manage and improve property rights systems in today's societies.

The course introduces the New Institutional Economics approach to economic development, and will pay attention to various legal underpinnings of property, including contract law and public registration of titles to property, as well as rule of law and conflict mediation institutions, and government's role in property rights enforcement, to get an impression of what makes for a beneficial property rights system.

Adjusting property rights systems can be difficult because of the vested interests of property owners. Attention will therefore also go to the question of how past societies managed to make changes to their property rights systems, under which circumstances they managed to succeed, and how this impacted upon development.

Course design

The course is designed as a series of group meetings. In the first part of the course historical and contemporary theories of good government, property rights, and development is presented through the course literature and later discussed in-depth

at meetings. In the second part, students will write a report applying theories to a historical case study. The written report is handed in as part of the examination and is given as a presentation to the group.

Assessment

Grading is based on individual performance via written hand-ins, papers, presentations and other mandatory activities. In this tutorial, equal emphasis is put on the active participation in discussions at the group meetings and oral presentations. Examination is continuous. Examination may draw on teaching as well as the course literature.

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.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

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 second year of the master's programme EAETU 'Economic Growth, Population and Development', track EKHI 'Economic History' and students that have already acquired the equivalent knowledge are qualified for this course.

Subcourses in EKHT33, Economic History: Advanced Topics in Economic History - Good Government - law, property rights and development

Applies from H17

1701 Good Government - Law, Property and Development, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A