



School of Economics and Management

## NEKN75, Economics: Institutions, Markets and Firms in a Chinese Context, 7.5 credits

*Nationalekonomi: Institutioner, marknader och företag i ett kinesiskt sammanhang, 7,5 högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Department of Economics on 2011-06-07 to be valid from 2011-06-07, autumn semester 2011.

### General Information

This is a single subject master course in economics belonging to the "International and Development Economics" specialisation. The course is either obligatory or optional within a number of master programmes at Lund University.

*Language of instruction:* English

Teaching is in English. (Teaching may be in Swedish if all registered students have a good knowledge of Swedish.)

*Main field of studies*

Economics

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

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

### Learning outcomes

#### Knowledge and understanding

Students shall have a deep understanding of the following issues:

- general theories applicable to the institutional analysis of markets and firms,
- the institutional foundations of China's business system,
- the main distinctive features of China's business system in comparison with western-style business systems,
- the dominant theoretical explanations for firm development in China,
- the distinctive determinants of firm performance in China's transitory system of emerging capitalism,

- the design, implementation and conduct of applied empirical analyses at the firm-level.

### **Competence and skills**

Students shall have the ability to:

- independently apply analytical skills to explain China's business system and institutional prerequisites of "doing business" in China,
- in particular apply New Institutional Economic theories in the above analysis,
- pursue applied empirical analysis using large-scale micro-level data-sets,
- give an account of and discuss their knowledge using good written English, improve their reasoning ability and feel familiar when speaking in public and debating controversial issues.

### **Judgement and approach**

Students shall have developed the ability to pursue further studies in the subject and shall be able to search for and evaluate information with a high degree of independence. Students shall also have developed the ability to individually write an essay at the master level.

### **Course content**

The goal of the course is to provide an in-depth analysis of China's path towards a free enterprise economy and train students in applied empirical research based on large-scale data-set analysis. The course will specifically focus on the political economy of China's ownership reforms and pursue an institutional analysis of the ongoing reforms. The course builds on the methodological framework of New Institutional Economics, to develop an understanding of the rapidly changing business system. Topics will deal with questions such as corporate governance under socialist leadership, the role of a business network within immature legal environments and resource constraints within a partially liberalized market.

In particular the following topics are included in the course:

- institutions, economic systems and development,
- determinants of institutional change,
- the state, interest groups, and state capture,
- private property rights and state ownership,
- privatization strategies,
- the legal environment,
- the role of de-novo private firms,
- embeddedness and social networks.

### **Course design**

1. Teaching: The first part will be held in the form of lectures, introducing the students to the major theoretical underpinnings related to the emergence of a free enterprise economy. The second part of the course will be held in the form of two one-day seminars, where students present their own papers on selected topics related to China's emerging private economy.

## Assessment

1. Examination: Examination consists of two home assignments, participation in the discussion at seminars, one paper presentation and a term paper to be submitted at the end of the course. Marks for home assignments and for participation in the discussion at seminars are carried forward to examinations taken the same term.
2. Limitations on the number of examination opportunities: –

The University views plagiarism very seriously, and will take disciplinary action against students for any kind of attempted malpractice in connection with examinations and assessments. Plagiarism is considered to be a very serious academic offence. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other unfair practices in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University for a specified period.

*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.

1. Grading: Grade (Definition), Points or percentage out of maximum points, Characteristic
  - A (Excellent), 85–100, A distinguished result that is excellent with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.
  - B (Very good), 75–84, A very good result with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.
  - C (Good), 65–74, The result is of a good standard with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.
  - D (Satisfactory), 55–64, The result is of a satisfactory standard with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.
  - E (Sufficient), 50–54, The result satisfies the minimum requirements with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought, but not more.
  - U (Fail), 0–49, The result does not meet the minimum requirements with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought. Students have to receive a grade of E or higher in order to pass a course.
2. Weighting grades from different parts of the course: : –
3. Grading scales for different parts of the course: –

## Entry requirements

Students admitted to the Master Programme in International Economics with a Focus on China are qualified for this course. For other students, at least 60 ECTS-credits in economics are required.

## Further information

1. Transitional regulations: This course replaces NEKM45 "Institutions, Markets and Firms in a Chinese Context".
2. Limitations in the period of validity: –
3. Limitations: This course may not be included in the same degree as NEK746 "Institutions, Markets and Firms in a Chinese Context" or NEKM45 "Institutions, Markets and Firms in a Chinese Context".
4. Similar courses. –
5. Limitations in renewed examination: –

Subcourses in NEKN75, Economics: Institutions, Markets and Firms in a Chinese Context

Applies from V12

1101 Institutions, Markets and Firms in a Chinese Context, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A