



School of Economics and Management

EKHE52, Economic History: Business and Society - a Dynamic Perspective, 7.5 credits

*Economic History: Business and Society - a Dynamic Perspective,
7,5 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå*

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Department of Economic History on 2013-05-30 to be valid from 2013-09-02, autumn semester 2013.

General Information

The course can be studied during the first year of Economic History at the undergraduate level. It can be included as an optional course in most Bachelor programs and it can be studied as a single-subject course.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Economic History

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

Enterprises (or firms) as legal entities are one of the fundamental realities of the modern capitalistic society. But the existence of the firm, its boundaries or development is in no way given by nature. The only possible way to understand why firms exist, why some grow and prosper while others disappear, why the pattern of firms are vastly different in different countries and even within countries in different regions, and, last but not least, how the existence of different firms affect the world we live in, is to use an economic history approach. Thus on a general level the aim of this course is to make the student able to independently analyse and describe the impact of firms to society as well as their role in historical economic development. Specifically, the learning outcomes are that the students should:

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to explain the most important theoretical economic explanations on why firms do exist
- demonstrate familiarity with the essential historical record of firms in Europe and US from medieval times until today.

Competence and skills

- know how to evaluate the link between the theoretical explanations on the existence of firms with the empirical record
- have the ability to analyse and present, orally and in writing why the number, the structure and the scope of firms differs in different countries and over time and what makes firms expand or disappear

Course content

The content of the course is delimited of both teaching and literature. In this course we study one of the hallmarks of modern economies: enterprises, their origin their development and their alternatives as the open market. We focus on the role of enterprises (firms) in their context, that is how demographic, economic, historical, legal and political factors explain the structure of firms – but also the other way around, the demographic, economic, historical, legal and political impact of firms. We start out by looking at theories on why firms do exist, hat they do and what makes them expand or dwindle. We are also looking at intracorporative issues such as the role of strategy, corporate governance etc. for firms' development.

Course design

The course is designed as a series of lectures and exercises.

Assessment

Grading is based on both individual and group performance, via written exams, presentations and other mandatory activities. 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. Plagiarism is considered to be a very serious academic offence. 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

General requirements for university studies in Sweden

Subcourses in EKHE52, Economic History: Business and Society - a Dynamic Perspective

Applies from V14

1301 Business and Society - a Dynamic Perspecitve, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A