



School of Economics and Management

EKHM30, Economic History: Population and Living Standards, 7.5 credits

*Economic History: Population and Living Standards, 7,5
högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Department of Economic History on 2011-06-07 to be valid from 2011-09-11, autumn semester 2011.

General Information

This is a graduate level course which is mandatory at the Master's programme as well as the Ph D programme in Economic History. It is optional at the Master's programmes in (1) Economic Demography, (2) Economic Growth, Innovation and Spatial Dynamics, and (3) International Economics with a focus on China.

Language of instruction: English

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 theories explaining the interrelationship between population growth and living standards as well as about the historical development of today's developed and developing countries. More specifically, to pass the assessments students will be able:

Knowledge and understanding

- to identify and explain the mechanisms through which economic conditions affect, and are affected by, fertility, mortality, nuptiality, and migration
- to analyze the relationships between economic and demographic factors by use of an econometric approach on actual data

Competence and skills

- to present a theoretically based analysis of the interplay between population change and economic development in a specific country or region

Judgement and approach

- to critically evaluate theories of change in the long-term relationship between population development and living standards

Course content

The course consists of two parts. The first part is an overview of the population debate over the past 50 years and its intellectual roots. This part includes theories explaining both the influence of population growth on economic, social, and environmental development and vice-versa. Examples are given, showing how the theories have been used to explain the historical development of population and living standards since the Middle Ages up to modern times. The concept of living standard is extended also to include how short-term economic changes influence population behaviour. Divergence in living standards between different socio-economic groups and institutional arrangements for transfers are studied.

The second part introduces ways to model the complex interrelationship between population and living standards which are appropriate for empirical testing. The students then make use of their knowledge in theory and econometrics to analyze data for a specific country or region using information available at various data bases. Their analyses are presented by means of a power point presentation.

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.

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

Students have to receive a grade of E or higher in order to pass a course.

GRADE	CHARACTERISTIC	CRITERIA
A	Excellent	A distinguished result that is excellent with regard to the following aspects – theoretical depth, relevance for the subject matter, analytical ability and independent thought.
B	Very good	A very good result with regard to the above mentioned aspects.
C	Good	The result is of a good standard with regard to the above mentioned aspects and lives up to expectations.
D	Satisfactory	The result is of a satisfactory standard with regard to the above mentioned aspects and lives up to expectations.
E	Sufficient	The result satisfies the minimum requirements with regard to the above mentioned aspects, but not more.

U	Fail	The result does not meet the minimum requirements with regard to the above mentioned aspects.
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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

tudents accepted for the Master's programmes shortlisted in the parenthesis qualify for this course (Economic History; Economic Growth, Innovation and Spatial Dynamics; Economic Demography; 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 EKHM13 and cannot be included in a degree with this course.

Subcourses in EKHM30, Economic History: Population and Living Standards

Applies from H11

1101 Population and Living Standards, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A