



School of Economics and Management

EKHM32, Economic History: Economics of Innovation, 7.5 credits

Economic History: Economics of Innovation, 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 2011-09-01, autumn semester 2011.

General Information

This is a course at the graduate level which can become part of a master of science degree. It is mandatory for the Master in Economic Growth, Innovation and Spatial Dynamics degree, and optional for other Masters' degrees. It can also 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

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 economics of innovation. More specifically, to pass the assessments students will:

Knowledge and understanding

- be trained to understand the process of economic growth and the structures underlying it. In particular, this concerns the role of innovations and how different social, economic and spatial contexts influence processes of innovation and entrepreneurship
- get an understanding of and be able to assess the benefits and drawbacks of various institutional settings at different geographical levels for promoting innovation

Competence and skills

- be able to transform theoretical models into testable empirical models and conduct the appropriate empirical investigation
- be able to analyse and interpret the findings of advanced theoretical and empirical applications
- be trained to communicate their own and others results, both in writing and orally

Judgement and approach

- be trained to assess the relevance and implications of their findings for research as well as policy purposes
- be able to independently read, interpret and assess current research in growth and innovation as well as advanced professional reports and analyses

Course content

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

This course covers several areas of innovation economics, such as their characteristics, their driving forces of innovation and how innovation affects economic growth. The sub-themes of the course are the following:

Market structures and innovation. This part of the course describes how competitive structures and imperfect competition may induce innovation in different industries. Institutions and innovation. Drawing on the systems of innovation literature, this theme addresses how the institutional framework affects innovation. Some of these aspects are related to national innovation systems (NIS), a concept for comparative analysis of innovative performance. Innovation processes and interdependencies within a more local or regional context are further analysed focusing on regional innovation systems (RIS). In addition to governing structures we address the role of different instruments such as standards, prizes and intellectual property rights such as patents for promoting innovation.

Diffusion. This theme discusses the implications of why innovation spreads and how it spreads into the economic environment from different perspectives. Concepts discussed include adoption, imitation and spillovers. We consider the relatively new field of network economics as well.

The role of innovation in economic growth. In this theme we will examine the role of innovation in economic growth through processes related to radical innovations, general purpose technologies, competence blocks and development blocks.

The course themes will be complemented by laboratory exercises using statistical data.

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.

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.

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 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, business administration, economic and social geography, economics, history, sociology or the

equivalent knowledge.

Further information

This course was previously labelled EKHP02 and cannot be included in a degree with this course.

Subcourses in EKHM32, Economic History: Economics of Innovation

Applies from H11

1101 Economics of Innovation, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A