



School of Economics and Management

EKHM67, Economic History: Causes of Demographic Change, 7.5 credits

Ekonomisk historia: Befolkningsutvecklingens orsaker, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Department of Economic History on 2019-02-05 and was last revised on 2019-09-02. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2023-11-09 and is valid from the spring semester 2024.

General information

This is a course at the graduate level, which can become part of a Master of Science degree. The course is mandatory for the master's programme EAETU Economic Growth, Population and Development track EKDE Economic Demography. It is optional at the master's programme EAETU Economic Growth, Population and Development, tracks EKHI Economic History and EKUT Economic Development, and the programmes EAIGH Innovation and Global Sustainable Development and EAEUT Economic Development and Growth. It can also be studied as a single-subject course.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

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

Learning outcomes

Generally, the student is to acquire advanced knowledge of demographic transitions and the interaction between population and economic and societal factors, as well as basic knowledge of demographic methods. On completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- understand and compare different demographic measures and critically interpret them

- map demographic transitions with regard to fertility, mortality and family in a global perspective over the last centuries
- possess advanced knowledge of theories of demographic change

Competence and skills

- independently calculate basic demographic measures, such as life expectancy tables, age-specific and total birth rates etc
- use demographic measures to describe demographic transitions and interpret trends and patterns
- individually or in a group, orally present theoretical explanations of demographic transitions and relate them to empirical data

Judgement and approach

- in speech and/or writing, both individually and in a group, discuss and justify different explanations for demographic phenomena and changes, and relate them to the actual population development
- understand the discrepancies between different theoretical explanations and assess scant empirical evidence with regard to, for example, historical circumstances
- realise that there are contradictory theories with regard to demographic transitions and make an informed assessment of their suitability based on the empirical data presented

Course content

The course gives an introduction to demographic data, measurement and demographic transitions. The course consists of two parts:

- Demographic methods. Basic demographic measures and concepts are discussed, such as rates, the lexis diagram, life tables, fertility, nuptiality and mortality measures
- Theories and evidence on global demographic transitions in an historical perspective. The long-term demographic development in the world is discussed and related to different theoretical explanations

Course design

The course is designed as a series of lectures, exercises and laboratory work with reports.

Assessment

Grading is based on individual performance, via written assignments, oral presentation as well as group activities.

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.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: 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 following master's programmes are qualified for this course: EAETU Economic Growth, Population, and Development, EAEUT Economic Growth and Development and EAIGH Innovation and Global Sustainable Development.

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 labeled STAN19, EKHP11, EKHM24, EKM60 and EKHM67 and cannot be included in the same degree as any of these courses.