



LUND
UNIVERSITY

School of Economics and Management

EKHT26, Advanced Topics in Economic Demography - Family and Health, 7.5 credits

Fördjupningskurs i ekonomisk demografi - Familj och hälsa, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Academic Director of Studies at Department of Economic History on 2023-01-17 to be valid from 2023-02-01, autumn semester 2023.

General Information

This is a graduate level course, which can become one of two mandatory tutorial courses in the second year of the master's program EAETU Economic Growth, Population Studies and Development, track EKDE Economic Demography.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Economic History

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On a general level, the student shall acquire advanced knowledge of theories about social differences in health and mortality in general, and specifically related to long-run developments and differences between families and across social groups. The student will also acquire knowledge about seminal literature in the field as well as from more recent academic publications using state-of-the-art methods and data. More specifically, the students will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of theories about the social determinants of health and change over time
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the explanations proposed for the

observed health outcomes

- Build knowledge about change in health differences across the population, including historical and recent developments

Competence and skills

- Relate to and discuss observed outcomes from a theoretically informed position
- Display a competence in contrasting different theories about the social origins of health differences across time
- Demonstrate the ability to understand, analyze and critically assess central issues in health demography

Judgement and approach

- Perform a comprehensive analysis of a relevant issue related to health, mortality and differences between families and social groups
- Present the results of this analysis in oral and written form
- Discuss, in writing and both individually and in smaller groups, different theories and explanations of the issues studied

Course content

In the past two centuries population health has tremendously improved. There are many perspectives on why these changes occurred, focusing on medical possibilities and improvements in the standard of living. In this course, a deeper look is taken at the state of the art in the literature. One of the topics that will be discussed are social differences between families, as these are the environment in which individuals grow up. There are large differences between families in the resources, lifestyle, and care that they provide children with at the start of life. These differences can have a long-lasting influence on health and life span. In an emerging literature, health differences between individuals are not considered solely from their individual perspective, but also by taking into account the conditions that they grew up in, parental resources, social mobility, and the effects of siblings and relatives in adulthood on health outcomes.

In this course, there is attention for health outcomes between individuals from different social groups, their family networks, and social status in adulthood. The course takes a multifaceted approach to social differences in health and mortality. There is attention not only for factors underlying person's social and health outcomes in adulthood that can be traced back to their social origin, but also the role of the social (family) network in childhood and adulthood. Interdisciplinary theories about social factors in health will be comprehensively discussed.

Due to the breadth of the topic, the content of the course will vary from year to year. Among subtopics to be addressed are health and mortality, early life effects in the family and beyond, social mobility and health, health segregation between relatives (siblings, nephews, grandparents, parents and children), the role of caretaking and involvement in family life and health outcomes, and demographic aspects related to health differences between families.

Course design

The course is designed as a series of group meetings. There is an introductory lecture. During each subsequent meeting, theories about different social factors in health and long-term change will be discussed. Students read a set of literature before each

meeting. In preparation to each meeting, students will work on independent assignments. They will write a short essay on how the assigned literature expands our understanding of mortality and health differences in the population. At the end of the course, students will write a paper about social differences in health from a family perspective. They select two or more theories discussed in the course and apply these to a case or cases of choice. Students will present their work to the group and comment on each other's work. The written report is handed in as part of the examination.

Assessment

Grading is based on individual performance via written assignments, papers, presentations and other compulsory activities. The examination is continuous. In this tutorial, active participation is a requirement. 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. 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.

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.

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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.

U (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 second year of the master's programme EAETU Economic Growth, Population and Development, track EKDE Economic Demography and students that have already acquired the equivalent knowledge are qualified for this course.

Subcourses in EKHT26, Advanced Topics in Economic Demography -
Family and Health

Applies from H23

2301 Economic Demography - Family and Health, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A