

EOSE07, Economy and Society: Business and Society - A Dynamic Perspective, 7.5 credits

*Ekonomi och samhälle: Företag och samhälle - Ett dynamiskt perspektiv, 7,5
högskolepoäng*
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Department of Economic History on 2018-06-12 and was last revised on 2025-03-14 (U 2025/237). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-03-14 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

General information

The course is mandatory during the third term of the BSc programme Economy and Society.

Language of instruction: English

*Main field of
study*

Specialisation

Economy and
Society

G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as
entry requirements

Learning outcomes

The overarching objective is that students will be able to independently analyse and describe the influence of business on society and vice versa, as well as the historical role of commerce in economic development. Upon completion of the course, the student should:

Knowledge and understanding

- Have attained knowledge on alternative theories which describe why businesses exist and how they relate to economic development
- Be proficient in the historical development of commerce, particularly in Europe and the U.S.A. from the middle ages until contemporary

- Know why alternative forms of businesses exist and have existed in different locations through history
- Be able to understand the implications that civic society (regulations and institutions) has for businesses during various stages of economic growth, as well as how commerce in turn influences the structure of society

Competence and skills

- Display an ability to analyse and write short academic pieces that answer a specific question within the subject area
- Be able to prepare oral presentations which will describe the analysis in front of others
- Have acquired the competence to both test theories on business and theorise from the analysis of existing evidence (empirical)

Judgement and approach

- Show a broad understanding of the methodologies applied in social science
- Understand how one can apply and evaluate empirical sources (source critique)
- Demonstrate an ability to read and critically evaluate academic texts in social science

Course content

Commercial and legal entities are among the most important foundations in the modern capitalist societies. But the existence of businesses, their limitations and/or development are not naturally occurring. The only possible way to understand why business exists and the form it takes on, why some are successful and grow while others disappear, why business structures vary among different countries and eras and most importantly, how business and commerce influences the world we live in, is to approach the subject through economic history.

Accordingly, in this course we study one of the most important foundations in the modern day economy: business. We consider alternative theories which explain the existence of companies, their origins and development. We focus on businesses within their contextual environment e.g. how demographic, historical, legal and political factors explain the development and structure of businesses, as well as considering the reverse i.e. how business has in turn influenced society. We begin by covering alternative theories of economic growth, the open market and commerce. We subsequently cover business and commerce in antiquity, the middle ages and the early modern as well as modern period to the present.

Course design

The course consists of lectures, seminars and group discussions.

Assessment

Grading may be based on individual performance in written assignments/exams and presentations, as well as written assignments and presentations together with other students. 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 unauthorized behaviour in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University. The standard suspension period is six weeks.

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: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

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 BSc programme Economy and Society with at least 45 credits from the programme qualify for this course.