NEKN76, Economics: Food Economics, 7.5 credits
Nationalekonomi: Livsmedelsekonomi, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

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

General Information

This is a single subject master course in economics. The course is optional within a number of master programmes at Lund University.

Language of instruction: English
Teaching is in English. (In some semesters the course can be taught in Swedish, see the appropriate application catalogue).

Main field of studies	*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*
Economics	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

1. Knowledge and understanding

Students shall have a deep understanding of the following issues:

- the structure and operation of the food chain,
- the importance of imperfect competition,
- the impact of consumers' choice,
- the relationship between food and biofuel production,
- the concept of and consumers valuation of food security,
- evaluation of policy measures and conditions in the food chain using econometrical techniques, applied general equilibrium analysis, and contingent valuation techniques.

2. Skills and abilities

Students shall have the ability to reflect independently and critically on a number of economic issues concerning the food chain, empirical methods and policy measures. Students shall also be able to give an account of and discuss their knowledge using good written English or Swedish.

3. Applying knowledge and making judgements

Students shall have developed the ability to pursue further studies in the subject and should be able to search for and evaluate information with a high degree of independence. Students shall also have developed the ability to individually write an empirically orientated essay at the master level.

Course content

This course aims at a deeper understanding of the industry conveying food from the farm to the plate and how to evaluate the food chain made up by farmers, processors, manufactures and retailers. The course *starts* with on overview of the food industry focusing on, the implications of a vertical integrated food chain, the effects of buyer's power and consumers' choice, and the behaviour of retailers. The *second* part focuses on the relationship between agricultural production and the environment, with a particular interest in the interaction between agricultural and environment policies that has formed the EU-policy for biofuel. This includes the effects of increased demand for biofuel on food prices, the economic effects of various policies to support biofuel market penetration using general equilibrium models, and the effects of climate changes on agriculture. The *third* part of the course is devoted to food and health, with a focus on food safety. Important elements in this part are; evaluation of risks, estimation of willingness to pay for risk reduction using contingent evaluation techniques, and how to implement efficient policies to reduce food risks.

No specific gender perspective is adopted in the course.

Course design

1. Teaching: Teaching consists of lectures and compulsory computer exercises.

Assessment

1. Examination: Examination consists of home assignments and compulsory seminars. Students must pass all home assignments. The average grade on all the assignments determines the final grade. All home assignments are given equal weight.

2. Limitations on the number of examination opportunities: –

The University views plagiarism very seriously, and will take disciplinary action against students for any kind of attempted malpractice in connection with examinations and

assessments. Plagiarism is considered to be a very serious academic offence. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other unfair practices in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University for a specified period.

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.
1. Grading: Grade (Definition), Points or percentage out of maximum points, Characteristic
A (Excellent), 85–100, A distinguished result that is excellent with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.
B (Very good), 75–84, A very good result with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.
C (Good), 65–74, The result is of a good standard with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.
D (Satisfactory), 55–64, The result is of a satisfactory standard with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.
E (Sufficient), 50–54, The result satisfies the minimum requirements with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought, but not more.
U (Fail), 0–49, The result does not meet the minimum requirements with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought. Students have to receive a grade of E or higher in order to pass a course.

2. Weighting grades from different parts of the course: –

3. Grading scales for different parts of the course: –

Entry requirements

At least 60 ECTS-credits in economics at the undergraduate level are required for admission to all master courses in economics. To be admitted to this particular course these credits must include a course in intermediate microeconomics (e.g., NEKG21 or equivalent).

Further information

1. Transitional regulations: –

2. Limitations in the period of validity: –

3. Limitations: This course may not be included in the same degree as NEKM58 "Food Economics".

4. Similar courses: –

5. Limitations in renewed examination: –

Subcourses in NEKN76, Economics: Food Economics

Applies from H12

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