



Course syllabus

School of Business and Economics

Department of Economics and Statistics

4NA010 Tillämpad nationalekonomisk metod, 15 högskolepoäng
4NA010 Applied Economic Methodology, 15 credits

Main field of study

Economics

Subject Group

Economics

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by School of Business and Economics 2013-03-12
The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2013

Prerequisites

Economics 90 credits including a Degree Project of at least 15 credits.

Objectives

On completion of the course, the student is expected to be able to:

- understand the potential and the limitations of different theoretical and empirical research set ups in economics
- problematise economic problems, using theoretical knowledge and knowledge of existing research within practical economics studies
- apply knowledge of theories and existing research within economics studies when assessing and discussing other's research
- complete advanced academic texts, including formulation of research questions and appropriate methodological research set ups

Content

The course introduces key issues and perspectives of the research process, by focusing on theory of science and methodology:

- introduction to the research process and research methods in Economics
- introduction to different scientific basic assumptions and different research

- perspectives
- introduction to the research process within economics
- formulation of a research question based on theory of science and methods in economics
- Discussion and evaluation of theses
- different ways of writing conclusions and results
- research ethics
- identify strengths and weaknesses of theoretical and empirical studies

Type of Instruction

The teaching consists of tutoring, lectures and seminars

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

The assessment of the performance of the students is based on assignments, final essay and seminars with oral presentation of the final essay.

Results are graded using one of the terms Passed with distinction, Pass or Fail, and A-F according to the ECTS scale.

For the grade pass, the objectives have to be reached; the grade is based upon the degree to which the objectives are met. The weighing of the grades to the course grade is following the principles in the document "Principer för betygsrapportering dnr 2011/160".

Students who do not achieve a satisfactory result in the examinations are permitted to make a second attempt approximately 5-8 weeks after the normal examination date. The student will have a minimum of five occasions for written exams in relation to the syllabus to which the student was accepted. Usually 3 occasions per academic year.

Course Evaluation

A written course evaluation is carried out and compiled in a report, which is archived at the department. The results and possible measures taken are communicated by the course coordinator and presented to the students the next time the course is given, or in another way deemed suitable by the course coordinator. Other types of course evaluations, for example regular evaluations throughout the course or discussions with students, will be included and encouraged with the aim of ensuring continuous quality development.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Reading list

Boumans, M., Davis, J. B. & Blaug, M., (2010). *Economic Methodology: Understanding Economics as a Science*. PALGRAVE MACMILLAN. 209 pages. ISBN 023021813X.

Chaplin, A. & Schaffer, A. (eds.) (2010). *The Foundations of Positive and Normative Economics – A Handbook*. Oxford University Press. 416 pages. ISBN 9780199744855.

Ethridge, D. (2004). *Research methodology in applied economics*. Blackwell Publishing. 242 pages. ISBN 0813829941.

Selected parts from selected Ph.D theses are used for the final essay and seminars. Selection will be made together with the lecturer.