

## **Course curriculum, EKHM63 Economic Growth over Time and Space**

Main field of study: Economic History, graduate level (progression level: A1N), 7.5 credit points (ECTS).

Approved by the Board of the Department of Economic History, Lund University School of Economics and Management 2011-06-07. Revised 2016-05-03.

### **1. Course level and placement within the educational system**

This is a graduate level course, which can become part of a Master of Science degree. The course is mandatory at the master's programme EAISD Innovation and Spatial Dynamics. It is optional at the master's programmes EAETU Economic Growth, Population and Development, EAEUT Economic Development and Growth and EAGCH International Economics with a Focus on China. It can also be studied as a single-subject course. The language of instruction is English.

### **2. Learning outcomes**

On a general level the student will acquire advanced knowledge about approaches of various disciplines to economic growth. More specifically, to pass the assessments students will:

- be able to use basic theoretical tools to analyse the initiation and diffusion of long term economic transformation and growth processes in time and space;
- be trained to analyse the role of physical capital, human capital, research and development, institutions and entrepreneurship for innovations and economic growth;
- be able to transform theoretical models into testable empirical models and conduct the appropriate empirical investigation;
- be able to analyse and interpret the findings of advanced theoretical and empirical applications;
- be trained to communicate their own and others results, both in writing and orally;
- be trained to handle databases;

be trained to assess the relevance and implications of their findings for research as well as policy purposes;

- be able to independently read, interpret and assess current research in growth and innovation as well as advanced professional reports and analyses.

### **3. Course content**

The content of the course is delimited of both teaching and literature.

Innovation and technical change is central to long term economic growth but it is treated very differently in economic theories. In a comparative manner this course presents technical change within major theoretical approaches: neoclassical growth models, endogenous growth models and evolutionary structural models. Particular attention is given to an economic historical model combined with a spatial theoretical framework of regional trajectories of growth. The model is based upon complementarities around innovations forming development

blocks that are driving processes of structural change. Thus, the interplay between innovations, economic transformation and economic growth is studied with an emphasis on major carrier branches both historically and in contemporary times. Innovations are analysed in relation to variations over time in, e.g., relative prices, entrepreneurial activity, investments, labour demand and employment. It is shown how this, at an aggregate level, shows up in phases of spatial convergence and divergence, respectively.

Furthermore, factors governing the diffusion of innovations - including the interplay between economic and institutional change - are studied. In this context the economics of spatial clustering and localised externalities is central. A related aspect is how clusters and regions contribute to the characteristics of national technological shifts and economic growth.

#### **4. Teaching and assessment**

The course is designed as a series of lectures, exercises and work with projects reports. Grading is based on individual performance, via written exams, paper, presentations and other mandatory activities.

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.

#### **5. Grading scale**

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

Students have to receive a grade of E or higher in order to pass a course.

GRADE	CHARACTERISTIC	CRITERIA
A	Excellent	A distinguished result that is excellent with regard to the following aspects – theoretical depth, relevance for the subject matter, analytical ability and independent thought.
B	Very good	A very good result with regard to the above mentioned aspects.
C	Good	The result is of a good standard with regard to the above mentioned aspects and lives up to expectations.
D	Satisfactory	The result is of a satisfactory standard with regard to the above mentioned aspects and lives up to expectations.
E	Sufficient	The result satisfies the minimum requirements with regard to the above mentioned aspects, but not more.
U	Fail	The result does not meet the minimum requirements with regard to the above mentioned aspects.

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.

## 6. Prerequisites

Students accepted for the following master's programmes are qualified for this course: EAETU Economic Growth, Population, and Development, EAEUT Economic Growth and Development, EAISD Innovation and Spatial Dynamics EAGCH International Economics with a Focus on China. 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.

## 7. Literature

For the current reading list, see separate document.

## 8. Miscellaneous

This course was previously labelled EKHP01 and EKHM22 and cannot be included in a degree with these courses.