



School of Economics and Management

EEH025F, Explaining Growth and Inequality, 7.5 credits

Förklaringar till tillväxt och ojämlikhet, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Third Cycle / Doktorandnivå

Details of approval

Approved by the Board of the Department of Economic History, Lund University School of Economics and Management 2021-03-09.

General Information

This is an optional course at the PhD programme.

The language of instruction is English.

Learning outcomes

On a general level the student will acquire advance knowledge about theories of explaining the relationship between economic growth and inequality as well as to apply those theories on empirical cases and make comparisons. More specifically, students will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate familiarity and understanding of theories explaining the relationship between economic growth and long-term inequality trends
- demonstrate familiarity and understanding of scholarly literature presenting empirical evidence of the relationship between economic growth and long-term inequality trends, both of individual cases and comparative perspectives

Competence and skills

- apply theories and analytical concepts in the literature of economic growth and long-term trends in inequality on empirical cases and critically examine their contributions and limitations

Judgement and approach

- make critical use of data addressing different dimensions of inequality trends
- present and defend theoretically and empirically sound analyses of trajectories in relationships between economic growth and long-term inequality trends

Course content

Investigating and theoretically explain why inequality is so much higher in some countries than in others and what drives changes over the long run are questions that have been central in economic history and economics. Despite the continued scholarly attention, which has included theoretical development as well as the adding of increasing empirical evidence, clear answers are still lacking. Until recently, most studies were concerned with inequality trends in the developed world, albeit there is now a slowly growing literature on the developing South including Asia, Latin America and Africa.

The aim of the tutorial is threefold: 1) To provide an in-depth discussion of theoretical perspectives of the long run causal relationships between economic growth and inequality, emanating from structural, political-economy and macro-sociological traditions 2) To enable students to analytically and methodologically identify the strengths and weaknesses of the theories 3) To teach students how to apply theory to empirical cases.

Course design

The course is designed as a series of group meetings. In the first part of the course different theories and empirical evidence is presented through the course literature and later discussed in-depth at meetings. In the second part, students will write a report where they examine the explanatory power of two or more theories applied to a case or cases of choice. The written report is handed in as part of the examination and is given as a presentation to the group.

Assessment

Grading is based on individual performance via written hand-ins, papers, presentations and other mandatory activities. In this tutorial, equal emphasis is put on the active participation in discussions at the group meetings and oral presentations. Examination is continuous. 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 2/4 STYR 2017/186 This is a translation of the course syllabus approved in Swedish penalty that may be imposed for this, and other unfair practice in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail or Pass.

Prerequisites

PhD students applying for this course should have at least 60 credit points in either economic history, business administration, economic and social geography, economics, history, sociology or the equivalent knowledge.

Further information

This course cannot be included in the same degree as EKHT42.