



School of Economics and Management

EEH035F, The State in the Development Process, 7.5 credits

Statens roll i utvecklingsprocessen, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Third Cycle / Doktorandnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Department of Economic History on 2020-12-01 to be valid from 2020-12-01, spring semester 2021.

General Information

This is an optional course in the PhD programme.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies: Economic History

Learning outcomes

The student will acquire advanced knowledge about major debates on the role of the state in the development process. In particular, s/he will be taught different theories of the role of the state and how they have been applied to explain economic development. The student will also acquire substantial knowledge about the different quality and competence of the state in the development process. More specifically, to pass the assessments students will be expected to:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge of theories and empirical patterns of the role of the state in the development process

Competence and skills

- apply theories and analytical concepts from the literature of the role of the state in the development process and critically examine their limitations

Judgement and approach

- make critical use of empirical evidence in addressing different dimensions of the role of the state in the development process
- discuss and defend theoretically and empirically sound analyses of the role of the state and its relation to the development process in the global South
- analyse and evaluate different roles of the state among developing countries after WW II.

Course content

The significant but elusive role of the state in the development process for long-term economic growth, poverty reduction and improving quality of life is a classic theme in both Economic History and Development Economics. The balance between the State and the Market or the State and Society has been, and still is, subject to vivid and sometimes animated debates. For instance, the state as a guarantor of functioning institutional arrangements, provider of public goods and orchestrator of development initiatives are central items of these debates. So are the different qualities and competences that are required to handle rapid change of exogenous factors such as liberalization, globalization and technological changes. This tutorial provides the tools to go into depth on the dynamics and variation of these processes in the developing world. In this course we will review the theoretical debates on the role of the state both in terms of its mechanisms of change and its interaction with other sectors. Empirically, the course will have a broad geographical scope including experiences from Asia, Latin America and Africa. This will allow for a deeper understanding of not only cases where the state has played a prominently conducive role for development but also cases where the state has impeded economic and social progress.

Course design

The course consists of a number of mandatory group meetings where the student is expected to actively discuss and in writing reports of significant theoretical and empirical literature in the discussion of the role of the state in the development process. The course ends with a paper assignment focusing on a debate, theoretical problem or empirical case(s) that also is presented for the group.

Assessment

Grading is based on individual performance both orally and in writing. Grading is continuous throughout the course. The greatest weight is given to the final paper.

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.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail or Pass.

Entry requirements

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 EKHT46.