



School of Economics and Management

EEH033F, Archives, Primary Sources, Datasets, 7,5 credits

Arkiv, primärkällor och data, 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

On a general level the student will acquire advanced knowledge about the primary sources economic historians use in their research, and the physical archives where these sources are kept, as well as the virtual archives that are increasingly becoming available thanks to developments in the Digital Humanities.

Altogether, when finishing the course the student should be capable of identifying primary sources to be used in a research project, to identify the best data collection approach, and to discuss the limitations of these sources. More specifically, to pass the assessments students will be expected to be able to demonstrate the following:

Knowledge and understanding

For a passing grade the student must

- demonstrate knowledge about the various primary sources economic historians use in their research.
- demonstrate understanding of how archives, in various forms, were compiled in the past, and are nowadays organized.

- demonstrate knowledge about the limitations of historical sources and how to address these in scholarly writing using source critique.

Competence and skills

For a passing grade the student must

- demonstrate the ability to search, collect, and use primary sources in the context of a research project.

Judgement and approach

For a passing grade the student must

- demonstrate familiarity with the limitations of historical sources.
- demonstrate to be able to work with both a scarcity of data, as well as an excess of data.

Course content

Economic historians make use of primary sources to study economic development in the past. To this end we reassess original sources or collect data that were collected in the past, by compilers who often had their own, specific purposes. To be able to use primary sources therefore requires the application of thorough source critique.

This course introduces the student to primary sources. Where does one find primary sources? How should one interpret them and evaluate their validity and reliability? How can one deal with scarcity, and excess, of data, respectively? And how should one process data retrieved from primary sources? The course prepares the student for using primary sources in the context of a research project, and to thus make a novel contribution to the field of economic history.

Course design

The course is designed as a series of lectures, exercises and seminars. Grading is based on individual performance, through written assignments, oral presentation as well as group activities. 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.

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

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.

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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 EKHT34.