



School of Economics and Management

EEH010F, Population and Living Standards, 7.5 credits

Befolkning och levnadsstandard, 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 advanced knowledge about theories explaining the interrelationship between population growth and living standards as well as about the historical development of today's developed and developing countries. More specifically, to pass the assessments students will be able:

Knowledge and understanding

- critically to evaluate theories of change in the long-term relationship between population development and living standards;
- to identify and explain the mechanisms through which economic conditions affect, and are affected by, fertility, mortality, nuptiality, and migration;

Competence and skills

- to analyze the relationships between economic and demographic factors by use of an econometric approach on actual data;

Judgement and approach

- to present a theoretically based analysis of the interplay between population change and economic development in a specific country or region.

Course content

The course consists of two parts. The first part is an overview of the population debate over the past 50 years and its intellectual roots. This part includes theories explaining both the influence of population growth on economic, social, and environmental development and vice-versa. Examples are given, showing how the theories have been used to explain the historical development of population and living standards since the Middle Ages up to modern times. The concept of living standard is extended also to include how short-term economic changes influence population behaviour. Divergence in living standards between different socio-economic groups and institutional arrangements for transfers are studied.

The second part introduces ways to model the complex interrelationship between population and living standards which are appropriate for empirical testing. The students then make use of their knowledge in theory and econometrics to analyze data for a specific country or region using information available at various data bases. Their analyses are presented by means of a power point presentation.

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. Attendance at no less than three of four teaching occasions is required.

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.

Grading scale

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 or the equivalent knowledge.

Further information

This course cannot be included in the same degree as EKHM13 andEKHM72.