



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

NEF2007 Topics in Applied Microeconomics, 7.5 credits

Tillämpad mikroekonomi, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Confirmation

This syllabus was confirmed by the Department of Economics on 2022-10-14, and is valid from Autumn semester 2022.

Responsible Department

Department of Economics, School of Business, Economics and Law

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course the participant must be admitted to Third Cycle studies at the Department of Economics, Gothenburg University or other departments, faculties or universities.

Students registered for third cycle studies at another faculty or university must apply for admission to the course to the Deputy Head of the Department of Economics.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course, the third-cycle student is expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

Understand both the seminal literature and the research frontier on the core course topics.

Competence and skills

Be able to critically consume empirical research on both the topics explicitly covered in the course and traditional applied microeconomics economics questions that are not covered in the course.

Judgement and approach

Being able to handle the different steps in writing a research paper including formulating a

relevant research question, finding appropriate data and being able to choose between econometric techniques based on (i) when each methodology can be appropriately used, (ii) the identifying assumptions, and (iii) the advantages and disadvantages of each methodology.

Course content

The aim of this course is to enable students to get an understanding of the research frontier of selected sub-fields within Applied Microeconomics. The course is a mix of theoretical economics, data analysis and econometric techniques. The course will include three broad topics – crime, corruption, and inequality and mobility, and highlight literatures at the intersection of Labor Economics, Public Economics, Law and Economics, and Political Economy.

The first part of the course focuses on inequality, intergenerational mobility and equality of opportunity. Specifically:

- The measurement of inequality
- The determinants of inequality: theory and evidence
- The measurement of Intergenerational mobility
- Theories of intergenerational transmission
- Empirical approaches to decompose transmission channels and to evaluate policies to promote social mobility
- Equality of opportunity: theory and evidence

The second part of the course will focus on the economics of crime and criminal justice, and highlight, amongst other topics:

- The economic model of crime,
- Discrimination in the criminal justice system,
- Social policies as crime control,
- Prisons and recidivism, and
- The costs of crime (victims, spill-overs, labor market discrimination),

The third part will focus on corruption, with a particular focus on:

Corruption in education

Corruption in health

Types of instruction

The course consists of lectures.

Language of instruction

The course is given in English.

Grades

The grade Pass (G) or Fail (U) is given in this course.

Types of assessment

- Class participation/discussion of articles (10%) This is an assessment of learning goals 1-3 with an emphasis on learning goal 1.
- Paper presentation (20%). Each student will be requested to present one of the assigned articles during the course. This is an assessment of learning goals 1-3 with an emphasis on learning goal 2.
- A research proposal presentation and proposal (70%). This is an assessment of learning goals 1-3 with an emphasis on learning goal 3.

To obtain a pass grade, the student has to obtain at least 50% of the maximum result combining the class participation, paper presentation and research proposal. At least 35% must come from the research proposal; i.e. the student must attain at least half of the available points on the research proposal to pass the course.

Course evaluation

A written anonymized course evaluation will be carried out at the end of the course. The results of the evaluation will be communicated to the students and will function as a guide for the development of the course.