



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

EHG031 The East and Central European Experience - from the Division of the Roman Empire to the Collapse of Communism, 7.5 credits

Öst- och Centraleuropa - från uppdelningen av romerska riket till kommunismens kollaps, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Economy and Society on 2018-12-18 and was last revised on 2022-11-08 to be valid from 2023-01-16, spring semester of 2023.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Economy and Society

Position in the educational system

Main field of studies

Economic History

Specialization

G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

Students should have successfully completed at least 60 hec in first cycle courses.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- Describe certain basic traits of human societies in East and Central Europe through history, the societies' production and material maintenance as well as their social structure.
- Describe the main traits of the historical development in East and Central Europe, from the end of antiquity until the end of the socialist economic model and the first decades of transition, with a specific focus on economic and social development.

- Describe economic and social conditions in Eastern and Central Europe in the context of historical change
- Explain the main differences in economic development and economic conditions between the major regions and countries of East and Central Europe in historical context
- Analyse the economically lagged behind and problems of East and Central Europe, particularly in comparison to the more developed economies of the West.
- Describe the economic and social transition process in East and Central Europe after the demise of Communism

The course is sustainability-related, which means that at least one of the learning outcomes clearly shows that the course content meets at least one of the University of Gothenburg's confirmed sustainability criteria.

Course content

East and Central Europe has differed from Western Europe, economically, culturally, and politically. These differences may be recognized very early in the history of Europe. Eastern and Central Europe's economic development can be characterized as less developed in relation to Western Europe. Moreover, the relation between Western and Eastern Europe affected the development of the two regions. This relation fostered progress in the West, while it limited the possibilities of the East. The main goal of the course is to understand these development traits. This course concentrates on long-run transformations and will discuss why and in which respects Eastern Europe differed - and still differs - from Western Europe. For example, Western Europe succeeded in transforming its agricultural economies into modern industrial societies. In Eastern and Central Europe this transformation was delayed, relatively speaking. This phenomenon could be noticed already prior to 1917, but later involved the establishment of socialist economies during the 20th century, which further delayed the development. The socialist economic model introduced elements of modernization but was unable to develop the region in pace with the Western economies, which contributed to the downfall of Communism. We will also look at how the growing social and environmental problems in the mature socialist economies contributed to the unsustainability of the model. During the 1990s, most of the countries in the region begun a painful process of transformation, to establish a Western style market economy. The course analyses the 30 years since transition and how the post-socialist states has developed recently.

Form of teaching

Forms of teaching are lectures and seminars.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The contents of the mandatory literature are examined as a traditional written examination in the end of the course. If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course was given.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Excellent (A), Very good (B), Good (C), Satisfactory (D), Sufficient (E) and Fail (F).

The scale is tied to fixed score intervals:

A: 85%-100%;

B: 75%-84%;

C: 68%-74%;

D: 60%-67%;

E: 50%-59%.

Course evaluation

Course evaluation is part of the course. This evaluation should offer guidance in the future development and planning of the course. Course evaluations should be documented and made available to the student.