



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

EHA122 International Business and Trade in a Historical Perspective, 7.5 credits

Internationellt företagande och handel i historiskt perspektiv, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Economy and Society on 2019-06-10 to be valid from 2020-01-19, spring semester of 2020.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Economy and Society

Position in the educational system

Main field of studies

Economic History

Specialization

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

A Bachelor's degree (180 hec) from an internationally recognized university, including a thesis of minimum 15 hec. Applicants must prove their knowledge of English: English 6/English B from Swedish Upper Secondary School or the equivalent level of an internationally recognized test, for example TOEFL, IELTS.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

- Discuss the importance of world trade for economic development and growth over the world
- Understand the process of corporate change for the industrial revolution to the 21st century
- Analyze the importance of different competitive and judicial regimes in the process of international business and trade

The course is sustainability-focused, 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. The content also constitutes the course's main focus.

Course content

The objective of this course is to discuss the development of world trade from early modern times until today.

Firstly, the historical development of world trade and trade policies are discussed in terms of causes and effects of international trade. A central aspect is the discussion of the importance of trade for growth and distribution of wealth over the world. The role of trade for countries in the less industrialised world is compared to its role for the industrialised world. Linked to this, is the discussion of whether protectionism or free trade has been the best way to promote economic development.

Secondly, the course relates to the development of "big business". The aim is to achieve an understanding for the present situation of multinational companies by studying their historical development. The studies start with how multi-national companies were formed. Multinationals have sometimes been accused of contributing to social injustice in countries in the third world. In the industrialised world they are accused of disrupting competition. The effects of big business establishment are to a large extent decided by how the activities are regulated. The national state can build institutions and regulate business activities by for example introducing tariffs, different forms of taxation, regulation of wages and so on. An important issue is to study under what circumstances multinational companies are contributing to growth and redistribution and when they are not

Form of teaching

The form of teaching is lectures and seminars.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The learning outcomes of the course are assessed by written assignments and oral presentations.

If a student, who has failed the same examined element on two occasions, wishes to change examiner before the next examination session, such a request is to be submitted to the department in writing and granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary

(Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, though at most two years after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to work experience and VFU, although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

Grades

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

For a passing grade of the course (A-E), pass is required at all the examinations. The grade on the course is a weighting of the results achieved on these.

Course evaluation

The course will be evaluated after completion. The results of and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and students who are starting the course.