



## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

### **NEK205 Empirical economics in practice, 7.5 credits**

Empirisk nationalekonomi i praktiken, 7,5 högskolepoäng

*First Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Economics on 2023-02-13 to be valid from 2023-08-28, autumn semester of 2023.

*Field of education:* Social Sciences 100%

*Department:* Department of Economics

#### **Position in the educational system**

This is a 7.5 credits intermediate course in economics within the first-cycle level.

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) European Studies Program (S1EUR), 2) Program in Environmental Social Science (S1SMI), 3) Bachelor's Programme in Business and Economics (S1EKA) and 4) Program in Political Science (S1STV)

#### *Main field of studies*

Economics

#### *Specialization*

G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

#### **Entry requirements**

Admission to the course requires a minimum of 45 credits of Economics, of which at least 15 credits have obtained a passing grade.

#### **Learning outcomes**

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

1. Use economic theory and econometrics to analyse different economic questions, where at least one question will relate to sustainability.

2. Explain and understand the use of different empirical economic methods
3. Write and orally present scientific reports
4. Identify, illustrate and problematise global and local work focusing on accountability, ethics and follow-up related to environmental, social and economic sustainability issues (applies only to students in the Programme in Environmental Social Science and the Programme in Business and Economics, see further information under Assessment).

How overall learning goals of the bachelor's degree are related to the learning outcomes of the course:

Overall Learning goals	Learning outcomes
Knowledge and understanding	1-2
Skills and abilities	1-3
Judgement and approach	3-4

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**

In this course students will learn to in practice use economic theory and empirical methods to analyse different economic problems. This is primarily done by applying the material from previous courses at both the introductory and intermediate level. The idea is that one should get an insight into how economists actually work with both models and empirical methods to understand and analyse a complex reality.

The course contains both micro- and macro economic questions. The micro economic questions relate to how individual actors, such as individuals and firms, for example value different good or how they behave under different market conditions. Questions that could be discussed range from demand for local environmental quality, or what pricing strategy a firm should use. The macro economic questions concern how factor at an aggregate or societal level relate to each other. Examples of questions include what factor explain the economic growth for a country such as Sweden over a longer time period, or how does the relationship between unemployment inflation evolve over time. At least one question will relate to sustainability.

### **Form of teaching**

The content of the course is presented at lectures, data exercises, in-group exercises, and seminars. A large part of the knowledge acquisition on the course is done through own work in form of assignments by the student.

*Language of instruction:* English

### **Assessment**

All the learning outcomes are assessed through written reports. A written report includes a joint and an individual part. The individual part of a report shall be written individually, and will be judged individually, cooperation in formulating text, tables, figures etc. is not allowed. The joint part of a report will be presented at a mandatory seminar. The presentations are examined individually. Valid absence from compulsory elements of the course can be replaced with additional assignments.

If a student who has twice received a failing grade for the same examination component wishes to change examiner ahead of the next examination session, such a request should be made to the department in writing and should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance). If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for study support for students with disabilities, the examiner may, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment. 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, but no more than two years after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to internships and professional placements (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).

### **Course evaluation**

Course evaluation is done digitally and anonymously at the end of the course.

The survey material is compiled and the results from the course evaluation and proposals for possible improvement measures are discussed at the course committee meeting. After the course evaluation is completed, the result will be published at the course homepage.

If a change of course is done based on the course evaluation, this will be communicated at the course introduction for the upcoming student group.