DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

NEK309 Topics in Applied Microeconomics, 7.5 credits

Tillämpad mikroekonomi, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Economics on 2020-02-06 and was last revised on 2021-01-17 to be valid from 2021-01-18, spring semester of 2021.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%
Department: Department of Economics

Position in the educational system

NEK309 is a 7.5 credits bachelor course within the first cycle.

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) Programme in Business and Economics (S1HEP), 2) Programme in Business and Economics (S1HEG) and 3) Bachelor's Programme in Business and Economics (S1EKA)

Main field of studies	*Specialization*
Economics	G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

Admission to the course requires a minimum of 60 credits of Economics, of which at least 45 credits have obtained a passing grade The student must also have studied a course in econometrics or equivalent.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student shall:

1. be aware of and be able to understand of a wide range of topics studied by applied microeconomists.

2. be able to identify and discuss common problems faced by researchers when trying to distinguish between causation and correlation.

3. be able to understand the intuition underlying a number of econometric methods commonly used in applied microeconomics to identify causal effects, and be able to read, reflect upon and discuss empirical research papers using these techniques.

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

Overall Learning goals Bachelor's degree	Learning outcomes
Knowledge and understanding	1, 2, 3
Skills and abilities	1, 2, 3
Judgement and approach	2, 3

Course content

This course introduces econometric tools that economists use to study the effect of economic incentives, including changes due to laws and public policy, on individual behaviours and outcomes. The aim of this course is to teach the students to become critical consumers of empirical research that is produced by both economists and researchers in related fields. The aim of the course is therefore not for the students to become practicing empiricists themselves.

Ideally, at the end of this course, the students will understand (i) the challenges faced by researchers in identifying causality and (ii) various types of methodologies that can be used to estimate such a causal effect in the data. The course will emphasize that the same research methods can be applied to a wide range of sub-fields within applied microeconomics.

In doing so, this course further engages the students in selected topics within the realm of applied microeconomics. Examples of topics which may be covered include but are not limited to (i) traditional topics in labour economics, such as labour markets and wages, (ii) empirical law and economics, such as the economic models of crime and discrimination, and (iii) the economics of education, such as school choice.

The students will be introduced to the seminal economic models regarding each topic in order to develop an understanding of the mechanisms at play.

Form of teaching

This course consists of lectures plus in-class student presentations and in-class group exercises. Details are provided in the course guide available on the course web page.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

All learning outcomes are assessed through an in-class verbal presentation and a written exam. Students are expected to attend and actively participate in the lectures. A student who fails to attend when attendance is mandatory has to complete a special written assignment instead.

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).

Course evaluation

The course will be evaluated upon completion. The course evaluation is done digitally and anonymously via a survey. The survey material is compiled and the results from the course evaluations and proposals for possible improvements are used as a basis for discussion on the course committee meetings. The course committee consists of student representatives as well as faculty representation. After the course evaluation is completed, the result will be published on the course homepage.

If the course changes based on the course evaluation, this will be communicated at the course introduction for the upcoming student group.