

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Master Thesis in Economics**

**Masteruppsats i nationalekonomi**

**30.0 Higher Education**

**Credits**

**30.0 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	EC9901
<b>Valid from:</b>	Spring 2009
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2009-05-14
<b>Department</b>	Department of Economics
<b>Subject</b>	Economics
<b>Specialisation:</b>	AXX - Second cycle, in-depth level of the course cannot be classified

## Decision

This syllabus was approved by the Board of the Department of Economics on May 14, 2009.

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Admission to this course requires that the student has (1) enrolled in a Masters Programme in Economics at Stockholm University and (2) has completed the mandatory courses on the program.

## Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
990A	Master Thesis in Economics	30

## Course content

The aim of this course is to provide training in how to critically and systemically analyse economic issues; to demonstrate the ability to critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate issues; to plan, complete and evaluate advanced assignments within specified time frames using appropriate methods, and thereby contribute to the development of knowledge. This is done by conducting an individual study to be presented in writing.

The course essay should be written individually. The essay supervision may take place individually or in seminar form (so-called "workshops"). The structure of the supervision in seminar form is mostly determined by the supervisors themselves, but may, as an example, be organised in the following way: supervisors with competence in the same field, e.g. International Trade, Microeconomics or Applied Econometrics, may supervise together a group of students who plan to write about one of these fields. A number of seminar meetings are scheduled throughout the essay semester (4th semester) which all students and supervisors should attend. At the first meeting, the students are expected to present proposals for essay topics. The supervisors help each other steer the students towards relevant and conductible essay projects. The students are expected to actively participate in the seminars by offering opinions on each other's essays. Each student, however, has one of the supervisors as their formal supervisor. How much supervision takes place outside of the seminars is up to the formal supervisor.

## Learning outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student is expected to be able to:

- conduct an independent, advanced economic study using a scientific method of analysis without undue

delay;

- adopt a critical position in relation to the material used in the study;
- clearly order and present the results of the analysis as well as argue orally and in writing for the validity of his or her own results;
- analyse and evaluate the results of other studies at the same level.

### **Education**

Instruction is given in the form of essay supervision. The student is entitled to ten hours of supervision throughout the course.

### **Forms of examination**

The examination during supervision in workshops is done by a supervisor who attended the same workshop but was not the formal supervisor. The grade is determined after a meeting between the examiner and the formal supervisor. Because the examiner has already had continuous insight into the student's work and "defence" of the essay during the seminar activities, there is no formal end seminar where the student has to defend his/her essay. The grade is based on the examiner's assessment of the essay, the discussion with the supervisor, and on the student's performance during the seminars.

In the case of individual supervision, the student is examined by an independent examiner at an examination meeting where the examiner and the supervisor have met beforehand to discuss the essay. At the examination meeting the student should give an approximately 20-minute presentation of his/her essay. Thereafter, the examiner will ask questions and offer opinions on the essay for about 20 minutes. The grade is then based on the examiner's assessment of the essay, the discussion with the supervisor, and on the result of the student's presentation and defence of the essay during the meeting.

Students will receive letter grades on a seven-point scale related to the learning objectives of the course: Passing grades are A, B, C, D and E, where A is the highest grade and E the lowest. Failing grades are F and Fx, where F is lower than Fx.

Assessment criteria for essay:

- A (Excellent): Innovative choice of issue and/or interpretation. New and valuable results. Very convincing presentation and argumentation with critical distance to the results of the study. Very well implemented economic theory and empirical data. Good scientific accuracy. No undue delay in conducting the study.
- B (Very Good): Interesting choice of issue and/or interpretation. New and valuable results. Convincing presentation and argumentation with critical distance to the results of the study. Very well implemented economic theory and empirical data. Good scientific accuracy. No undue delay in conducting the study.
- C (Good): Issues, study and analysis are coherent. Partly new results. Fairly convincing presentation and argumentation with critical distance to the results of the study. Well implemented economic theory and empirical data. Scientific accuracy. No undue delay in conducting the study.
- D (Satisfactory): Issues, study and analysis are coherent. Partly new results, but of limited value. Some weaknesses in the presentation and argumentation. Some critical distance to the results of the study. Relevant economic theory and empirical data. Scientific accuracy.
- E (Adequate): Issues, study and analysis are mostly coherent. Partly new results, but of limited value. Weak presentation and argumentation with incomplete critical distance to the results of the study. Fairly relevant economic theory and empirical data.
- Fx (Inadequate): The student fulfils the requirements above for E in principle, but has not met requests to revise the essay.
- F (Totally Inadequate): The essay does not fulfil the requirements for E.

### **Required reading**

Mahmood Arai, Michael Lundholm and Astri Muren, Att genomföra examensarbete i nationalekonomi vid Stockholms universitet, the latest edition, available on the course website.