

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Master Thesis in Economics

Masteruppsats i nationalekonomi

30.0 Higher Education

Credits

30.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	EC9901
Valid from:	Spring 2011
Date of approval:	2009-05-14
Changed:	2010-09-16
Department	Department of Economics
Main field:	Economics
Specialisation:	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 September 16, 2010.

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

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.

The process of examination in the case when supervision is done in the form of workshops is in principle the same in the case of individual supervision. The examiner is a supervisor who attended the same workshop but was not the formal supervisor. The grade is based on the same criteria as in the case of individual supervision and also on the student's performance during the workshops.

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 fulfill the requirements for E.

Required reading

Arai, Jacobsson, Lundholm and Muren, How to write a master thesis in economics at Stockholm University, latest edition, see the home page and/or the Mondo site.