

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Antitrust and Regulation**

**Konkurrenspolitik och reglering**

**7.5 Higher Education**

**Credits**

**7.5 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	EC7114
<b>Valid from:</b>	Autumn 2013
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2013-05-23
<b>Department</b>	Department of Economics
<b>Subject</b>	Economics
<b>Specialisation:</b>	A1F - Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

## Decision

This syllabus was approved by the Board of the Department of Economics on May 23, 2013.

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Admission to this course requires that the student is either (1) enrolled in a Master's Programme in Economics at Stockholm University, or (2) has (a) eligibility for the Master's Programme in Economics at Stockholm University, and (b) prerequisites equal to the mandatory courses that have been given prior to this course according to the current curriculum for the Master's Programme in Economics.

## Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
711A	Antitrust and Regulation	7.5

## Course content

Antitrust policy and regulation are two different ways of dealing with competition problems. In other words, antitrust policy can be said to specify what businesses may not do (e.g. that they are not allowed to cooperate in setting prices), while regulations prescribe what one or more businesses must do (e.g. not set the price above a certain level). The aim of antitrust policy is thus to enhance competition by banning such behaviour that restricts competition, while regulations are directed at industry-specific issues that cannot be properly dealt with through antitrust policy. The latter is the case in certain network industries, such as telecommunication, railroad transport and electricity, or in service industries, such as health care and taxi services.

The course presents relevant theories for imperfect competition and uses them to investigate issues concerning antitrust policy and regulation.

## Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

- Upon completion of this course the student is expected to have a good understanding of economic aspects of antitrust policy and regulation.
- The student should be able to give an account of economic conditions and considerations of significance to the balance between antitrust policy and regulation in relevant markets.

## Skills and abilities

- The student should have a good understanding of the basic mechanisms in the models presented in the course and the underlying assumptions critical for their analysis.
- The student is expected to be able to independently apply the tools of analysis to relevant economic problems.

## Education

Instruction is given in the form of lectures that also contemplate time for doing prepared calculation exercises. The language of instruction is English.

## Forms of examination

The course is examined on the basis of a written examination.

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:

- A (Excellent): The student is able to give comprehensive and nuanced explanations of relevant economic arguments in all areas discussed in the course. For a given economic problem, the student is also able to motivate which models are relevant for analysing the problem, correctly perform the analysis and discuss its limitations.
- B (Very Good): The student is able to explain the essence of relevant economic arguments in several areas discussed in the course. The student is also able to apply relevant economic models to a given economic problem and be aware of the limitations of the analysis.
- C (Good): The student is able to explain the main characteristics of relevant economic arguments in most of the areas discussed in the course. The student is also able to analyse typical examples of economic problems discussed in the course.
- D (Satisfactory): The student is able to explain the main characteristics of many of the economic arguments discussed in the course. The student is also able to analyse typical examples of economic problems discussed in the course in a principally correct fashion.
- E (Adequate): The student is able to explain the main characteristics of the most central economic arguments discussed in the course and has certain common knowledge of other models and arguments.
- Fx (Inadequate): The student is unable to explain the main characteristics of the most central economic arguments discussed in the course.
- F (Totally Inadequate): No criteria.

For students who fail a course unit and receive the grade Fx or F on an examination there are no restrictions on how many times they are allowed to retake the examination in order to obtain a grade of E or higher.

## Interim

If this course is discontinued, students have the right to be examined on the course once per semester for three further semesters.

## Required reading

See course homepage available from [www.ne.su.se](http://www.ne.su.se).