



School of Economics and Management

EEH020F, Family Demography, 7.5 credits

Familjedemografi, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Third Cycle / Doktorandnivå

Details of approval

Approved by the Board of the Department of Economic History, Lund University
School of Economics and Management 2021-03-09.

General Information

This is an optional course at the PhD programme.

The language of instruction is English.

Learning outcomes

On a general level the student shall acquire advanced knowledge of demographic processes and their interactions with economic and societal factors relating to family demography (i.e. marriage, fertility, divorce). In particular, s/he will be taught different theories, explanations and analytical approaches of the issues studied. More specifically, to pass the assessments students will be expected to:

Knowledge and understanding

- develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of the main aspects of family demography, including marriage, cohabitation, divorce and fertility
- build knowledge relating to the theoretical explanations for family change, including historical and recent developments
- acquire knowledge of changing empirical patterns and their implications for advanced societies

Competence and skills

- interpret empirical findings and relate this to various theoretical models and analytical concepts
- improve competence relating to analytical methods used in family research
- demonstrate the ability to understand, analyze and critically assess central issues in family research

Judgement and approach

- perform a comprehensive analysis of a relevant issue related to the course theme and present results of this analysis in oral and/or written form
- individually discuss, in writing and in smaller groups, different theories and explanations of the issues studied

Course content

The aim of this tutorial is to provide students with advanced knowledge of central aspects of family demography, including fertility, family formation, divorce, and cohabitation. The course will examine the family as a dynamic institution, incorporating a historical and comparative perspective, focusing on late 20th century developments in economically-developed countries. Students will gain competence in both theoretical and empirical analyses, which include critical assessments and understanding of current analytical approaches in family research. The inter-connectedness of fertility, paid work, and policy will be contrasted across Nordic countries, as well as those adhering to other welfare regimes. The consequences and implications of changes in the family for individuals and society at large will be explored, with an emphasis on the changing roles of women.

The course is designed as a tutorial where the student independently reads the designated literature and discusses it with the instructor, and possibly with other students in the group. In addition, the student works with written assignments given by the instructor. The course is divided into three parts. The first part places an emphasis on basic theories of the family and on related developments including but not limited to marriage, cohabitation, and divorce. Part two of the course will focus on three inter-related topics: fertility; the effects of parenthood on work, time use and gender equality; and fertility, work and policy in a comparative perspective. The final part of the course will be devoted to a final paper, which students will present in a final seminar presentation.

Teaching and assessment

The course is designed as a three-part series of group meetings. In part one, different theories and empirical evidence are presented through the course literature and discussed in-depth, with an assessment based on two assignments. In part two, students will write (individually) reaction papers based directly on key themes and the related literature. In the final segment of the course, students will produce and be assessed on a final paper (individually written), and students will give a presentation of their paper to the group.

Assessment

Grading is based on individual performance via written assignments, papers, presentations and other compulsory activities. The examination is continuous. In this tutorial, equal emphasis is placed on the active participation in discussions at the group meetings and oral presentations. Examination may draw on teaching as well as the course literature.

The University views plagiarism very seriously, and will take disciplinary actions against students for any kind of attempted malpractice in examinations and assessments. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other unfair practice in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University.

Grading scale

Marking scale: Fail or Pass.

Prerequisites

PhD students applying for this course should have at least 60 credit points in either economic history, business administration, economic and social geography, economics, history or the equivalent knowledge.

Further information

This course cannot be included in the same degree as EKHP07, EKHM44 and EKHT22.