



School of Economics and Management

EEH039F, Human Rights and Economic Development,
7.5 credits
Mänskliga rättigheter och ekonomisk utveckling, 7,5
Third Cycle / Doktorandnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Department of Economic History on 2021-09-14 to be valid from 2022-01-01, Spring semester 2022.

General Information

This is an optional course in the PhD programme.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies: Economic History

Learning outcomes

The student will acquire advanced knowledge about the major issues involved in the emergence and application of a rights based approach to economic relations. Students will explore the relevance of human rights on the theories and practices of sustainable economic development. In particular, students will develop an appreciation for the complexities raised by rights-based development approaches by examining the policies of states, international organizations and business actors. To pass the assessments students will be expected to:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate familiarity with the history, conceptual frameworks and examples of human rights to economic activity

Competence and skills

- Apply human rights and economic reasoning to concrete settings in a combined manner to analyze complex issues raised in sustainable development, poverty-reduction, trade and investment, and business conduct

Judgement and approach

- Critically examine the strengths and limitations of human rights and economic approaches
- Critically discuss the responsibilities of private and public actors with regards to sustainable development

Course content

The course accounts for the historical emergence and establishment of the overarching international frameworks for a just and prosperous society such as the UN system of human rights and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. These encompassing visions have to account for several challenging aspects of contemporary global development, such as poverty issues, inequalities, environmental concerns, transformations of international trade brought by the supply chain revolution, and governance complexities presented by for example the rise of China and its state-capitalist authoritarian model of development. In this regard, attention will be given to discussing the role of the private sector and the emergence of multistakeholder partnerships and corporate social responsibilities and the shift from voluntarism to novel public regulations of supply chains, especially in the EU. The course will examine how the economy of today is shaped by the imperatives linked to climate change and post-covid reconstruction and discuss the extent to how these transformations relate to new spaces and challenges for inclusive and rights-based development. The conduct of both private and public actors, as well as their interdependencies in what some call the 'state-business nexus', will be analysed.

Course design

The course consists of a number of mandatory group meetings where the student is expected to actively discuss and in writing reports of significant theoretical and empirical literature in the discussion of the relationship between human rights and development. Through case studies abuses and malpractice as well as good practice from various geographies, in both developing and developed countries are revealed. The course ends with a paper assignment focusing on a debate, theoretical problem or empirical case(s) that also is presented for the group.

Assessment

Grading is based on individual performance both orally and in writing. Grading is continuous throughout the course. The greatest weight is given to the final paper.

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.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail or Pass.

Entry requirements

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, sociology or the equivalent knowledge.