

## **EHEH007 Living Conditions and Demographic Change in Pre-Industrial Societies**

Main field of study: Economic History, third cycle studies, 7.5 credits (ECTS).

The syllabus was approved by the Board of the Department of Economic History at Lund University on February 5, 2019.

### **1. General information**

The course is given as an elective course for doctoral students in economic and social science subjects. The course is given jointly within the School of Economics, Lund University. The language of instruction is English.

### **2. Learning outcomes**

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

After completing the course, the students should understand and be able to discuss key concepts in the area of economic demography and their importance in economic and social science research. They should show familiarity with various sources of information such as church books, civil records, censuses, sample surveys and genealogies, as well as geographically related sources with information on prices, wages and climate.

#### *Skills and abilities*

After completing the course, students should have acquired knowledge and skills on how to use tools and methods for data management and analysis such as episodes tables and event history analysis in order to study how changes in external conditions such as crops, food prices, rain, temperature, disease outbreaks, affect fertility, migration and mortality of different socio-economic groups in the short and long term. The students should also be able to use methods to study how health and living standards are affected by the conditions of previous generations.

#### *Judgement and approaches*

After completing the course, students should understand and being able to evaluate how different ways to measure living conditions complement each other and how external factors outside the influence of individuals and households have an impact on life opportunities and choices.

### **3. Course content:**

The course deals with the complex interaction between population and economy in agrarian and early industrial societies. It focuses on how local conditions affect health and living standards in the short term, over the life cycle and for future generations. To analyse the living conditions of different socio-economic groups, longitudinal data is combined at the micro and macro levels. At the micro level, data on births, migrations, marriages and deaths and occupational data are used. At the macro level, data on wages, prices, temperature, rainfall, and disease outbreaks are used.

The course will follow an intensive two-week programme with full days of instruction, structured in two parts: Morning lectures will be devoted to theoretical lessons and discussions, while afternoons will be devoted to lab lectures and exercises on data management and analysis. Students will be given an opportunity to work with data from the *Scanian Economic Demographic Database* and *South African Families* throughout the course.

#### **4. Assessment**

The assessment is based on individual and group assignments. The assignments will have a clear focus on a certain problem, and will be analytical rather than referential.

#### **5. Grades**

In accordance with Lund University regulations, the grades awarded are Pass or Fail.

#### **6. Admission requirements**

The course is an elective course for doctoral students in the fields of Economics and Social Sciences but is open to PhD-students from other institutions. Students are expected to be familiar with demographic and quantitative methods, micro-level data, and have at least intermediate level econometrics. Preference will be given to advanced applicants.