



Kursplanen är föredragen vid Forskningsnämndens möte den 11 december 2013 och godkänd genom Ordförandebeslut 2014-01-29

Gäller från 2014

## **Humanomics: Economics and the Humanities, 7,5 credits**

*Humanekonomi: nationalekonomi och humaniora, 7,5 högskolepoäng*

Third-cycle course/Forskarnivå

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### **Intended Learning Outcomes**

#### ***Knowledge and understanding***

At the conclusion of the course, students are expected to

- Demonstrate a balanced comprehension of the role of qualitative and quantitative “methods” included in the course, including an understanding of their ontological and epistemological basis.
- Show understanding of how the theories relate and differ from each other

#### ***Skills and abilities***

Students are expected to

- Show ability to assess how economics and other quantitative sciences are also humanistic.

### **Contents**

The course introduces a new way of doing economics and social sciences-related studies such as in business or law or political science, keeping the quantitative and modeling methods of social science but opening them to other ways of knowing in the humanities (German *Geisteswissenschaften*). The course shows how novels, plays, philosophy, linguistics, history all contribute to the understanding of society and of the economy, especially in the matter of human *meaning* and its interaction with human behavior.

### **Type of instruction**

The course is an intensive course. We spend each morning session on the (rather small as yet) specialized literature on the subject, together with classics in the humanities such as Benjamin's "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" and Wittgenstein's "Philosophical Investigations" in their application to how economies work. One of the sessions is an intensive study of Ibsen's *The Master Builder* [*Bygmester Solness*] as a case in point. All the reading is to be done *before* arriving, in order to give maximum opportunities for conversation. The afternoons

are devoted to intensive discussion of essays-in-progress the participants bring to the seminar, with an eye to strengthening them for publication in a humanistic way or a "scientific" way, depending on the (opposite) orientation of the scholar. The essays must be submitted for circulation in advance of the course.

## **Prerequisites**

The course is open for doctoral students and faculty members within social sciences and humanities. It is recommended that students be at least one year into their PhD-program and have taken, if offered, the introductory PhD-courses in research methodology and philosophy of science.

## **Examination and grades**

The course requirements are active participation in the seminars, and an essay-in-progress that each participant sends in before the seminar begins. Each student must also discuss another student's paper, so papers must be distributed ten days in advance of the course. The course paper should be in the form of an article, a conference paper, or similar product, and demonstrate that the learning outcomes have been achieved. The grades used are pass or fail.

## **Course evaluation**

The course will be evaluated during the last session, using the evaluation form of the School of Education and Communication.

## **Other information**

For admission procedures and schedule, see separate attachment.  
The course takes place in English.

## **Course literature**

Benjamin, W. (2008). *The work of art in the age of mechanical reproduction*. London: Penguin. (111 pages; selections)  
Ibsen, H. (1961). *The master builder [Bygmester Solness]*. Available as e-book (127 pages).  
Pitcher, G. (red.) (1968). *Wittgenstein: the philosophical investigations*. London: Macmillan. (510 pages: small selections)  
McCloskey, Deirdre, *The Secret Sins of Economics* (available online by googling, or at McCloskey's website, [deirdremccloskey.org](http://deirdremccloskey.org)), 90 pages, entire.  
Wilson, Bart, selected articles on "humanomics" (provided at the course website)  
McCloskey, other articles on "humanomics"  
Hirschman, Albert. selections from *Exit, Voice, and Loyalty* and some other works by him, as an example of an older move towards humanomics.  
Boulding, Kenneth. Selections, again as examples of older approaches to humanomics.  
Selected poetry by Robert Frost (an unusually "economistic" American poet; you are encouraged to bring similar poems from your own national literatures).

*Much of the course literature will be made available through the web to registered participants.*