



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

SLUkurs

Syllabus

PNG0059 Global History of Agriculture, 7.5 credits

Syllabus approved

2014-12-11

Subjects

Agricultural History

Education cycle

Third cycle

Grading scale

Pass / Failed

The requirements for attaining different grades are described in the course assessment criteria which are contained in a supplement to the course syllabus. Current information on assessment criteria shall be made available at the start of the course.

Language

English

Prior knowledge

Admitted to doctoral studies. PhD students from a variety of disciplines are welcome, from both social and natural sciences. Lectures are open for others as well.

Objective, including learning outcomes

A main objective with this course is to teach global agriculture and agrarian change in past and present times in form of a big synthesis. As a big synthesis the course

has a wide approach that covers the last thousand years in Asia, Europe and Africa. This kind of approach facilitates the ability to understand the history of world agriculture as well as today's situation and challenges of today and for the future.

Upon completion of the course the students shall be able to:

- account for main characteristics in world agricultural systems today and to relate this to the past
- identify and analyse major differences and similarities in agriculture with regard to regional differences and different time periods
- discuss the meaning of 'path dependency', and exemplify this in agrarian contexts
- discuss and exemplify 'the role of crises' in agrarian contexts
- explain and analyse a certain region with regard to its long-term agrarian history.

Content

The course provides unique new studies in the field of global agrarian history in past and present times. It is based on a big synthesis project by Professor Janken Myrdal, Agrarian History, SLU, who is the main teacher, and by Professor Mats Widgren, Human Geography, Stockholm University, who is guest lecturer at the course. Other lecturers are Professor Ulf Jonsson, Economic History, Stockholm University, who will deal with waves of global food trade, and Associate Professor Carin Martiin, SLU, who will lecture on the world of agriculture today. Each lecture focuses on agrarian and rural issues in certain regions and will among other things pay attention to path dependency and to the role of crises in regions such as: India, Southeast Asia and Oceania, China and Japan, West and Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Russia and Siberia, and Europe.

The course participants will get access to a unique, not yet published maps and texts, on which the comments are welcomed. The material will later be published. Lectures are combined with workshops where the students work on various issues related to the lectures. As one part of the workshops the course participants will chose a certain geographical region to work on specifically.

In addition to the material from Myrdal and colleagues the course literature consists of the best standard overview on world agricultural systems over time, Grigg 1974, and the more recently published Mazoyer & Roudart (2006) which is a good historical overview of world agriculture over time. Martiin (2013) provides an overview of world agriculture today.

Requirements for examination

Continuous assessment will be a major part of the examination, accompanied by a summarizing final examination. Active participation in workshops and lectures.

Additional information

The course is given within the research school 'Society, Landscape and Land Use' at the Department of Urban and Rural Development.

Responsible department

Department of Urban and Rural Development