

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Debt in Historical Perspective**  
**Skulder i historiskt perspektiv**

**15.0 Higher Education**  
**Credits**  
**15.0 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	EH6118
<b>Valid from:</b>	Summer 2023
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2022-12-01
<b>Department</b>	Department of Economic History and International Relations
<b>Main field:</b>	Economic History
<b>Specialisation:</b>	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

## Decision

Established by the department board 1st of December 2022.

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

180 ECTS credits with at least 90 ECTS credits in International Relations, Economic History, Global Development or equivalent topics such as History, Human Geography, Economics, Business Administration, Anthropology, Sociology or Political Science, including a thesis or other independent project of at least 15 ECTS credits. English B/6 or equivalent.

## Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
6118	Debt in Historical Perspective	15

## Course content

This course offers a historical perspective on the concept of debt, its different meanings and functions, in different contexts and cultures. It begins in Babylonian times and ends with the financial crisis in Wall Street in 2008. The regions studied include the Western world and the Global South.

The course highlights and deepens themes such as private debt and indebtedness, government debt, corporate debt, financial crises, class, gender and inequality. The course also provides the theoretical tools needed to understand the financial world as well as monetary and credit mechanisms from a historical perspective.

## Learning outcomes

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- Describe and demonstrate an understanding of the different roles, functions and meanings of debt and credit in the economy and society from a historical perspective.
- Discuss and analyse how the concept of debt has evolved.
- Critically examine and analyse different theoretical approaches in studies of meaning and function of debt over time.
- Discuss relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects in relation to debt, loans and credit.
- Independently complete a scholarly paper related to the course.

## Education

The course will consist of lectures and seminars. Attendance for seminars is mandatory. See the course

description for more information. Teaching will be taking place remotely (see information on Athena).  
Teaching will be held in English

### **Forms of examination**

- a) The course is examined through ongoing written and oral reports, as well as an independently written assignment that the student defends at a seminar. See the course description for more information.
- b) Grading will be according to a seven-point grading scale: A = excellent, B = Very good, C = Good, D = Satisfactory, E = Sufficient, Fx = Insufficient, F = Completely inadequate.
- c) The written grading criteria will be communicated at the start of the course.
- d) To obtain a final grade, a minimum grade of E is required for every examination as well as full attendance. Absence from a maximum of three seminars can be compensated with written assignments. If more than three seminars are missed the student needs to retake the course to obtain a final grade.
- e) For each course opportunity, there will be at least two examination opportunities. At least one examination opportunity will also be offered in the semester in which there is no course opportunity. Students who have received a passing grade may not undergo a renewed examination for a higher grade.
- f) Students who have received the grade Fx or F on an examination twice by the same examiner have the right to have another examiner appointed to determine the grade on the next examination, unless there are special reasons to the contrary. Requests for this must be made to the department board.
- g) Completion of Fx for one of the examination forms can be allowed if the student is close to the limit for a passing grade.

### **Interim**

When the course is no longer given or the content has changed significantly, the student has the right to be examined once per semester during a three-semester period in accordance with this syllabus, subject to availability.

### **Misc**

The course may not be included in a degree together with a completed course where the content of which fully or partially corresponds to the content of this course.

### **Required reading**

The current list of course literature is available on the department's website [www.ekohist.su.se](http://www.ekohist.su.se) no later than one month before the start of the course.