



**Karolinska  
Institutet**

Course syllabus for

## **Society and Health, 4.5 credits**

Samhälle och hälsa, 4.5 hp

This course syllabus is valid from autumn 2023.

Please note that the course syllabus is available in the following versions:

[Autumn2015](#) , [Autumn2016](#) , [Autumn2017](#) , [Autumn2020](#) , [Autumn2021](#) , [Autumn2022](#) , Autumn2023 , [Autumn2024](#)

Course code	2PS035
Course name	Society and Health
Credits	4.5 credits
Form of Education	Higher Education, study regulation 2007
Main field of study	Not applicable
Level	GX - First cycle
Grading scale	Pass with distinction, Pass, Fail
Department	Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences and Society
Decided by	Programnämnd 8
Decision date	2014-11-07
Revised by	Education committee CNS
Last revision	2023-03-20
Course syllabus valid from	Autumn 2023

## **Specific entry requirements**

Passed results of the Study Programme in Psychology semesters 1-3 including 90 credits and at least 15 credits from semester 4.

## **Objectives**

On completion of the course, the student should be able to

- account for concepts and theories central for the fields social stratification, socio-economic position, society and health
- account for and discuss social, environmental and behavioural factors that are important for health, mortality and inequality with an international perspective
- show basic knowledge about men's violence against women and violence in intimate relationships
- show basic knowledge about epidemiological method and common sources of bias in epidemiological studies
- reflect upon her own life situation, privileges and challenges, based on the social structures covered during the course.

## Content

The course intends to give the students in-depth knowledge of concepts, methods and empirical research about the relationship between society and health at population level. Sociological and social theories, e.g. about social structures and social stratification, are discussed in relation to how differences in health arise, remain and are recreated over time. Health inequalities between different groups in society, based on gender, age, socioeconomic position, migration/country of birth and LGBTQ. Will be discussed during the course. The student will learn basic facts concerning public health and inequality in health from a global perspective, and gets an overview of important mechanisms that contribute to the relationships between social structures and various health outcomes.

The course also includes an overview of epidemiological concepts that are common in scientific literature. The intention is to give the student a basis for a critical attitude when reading epidemiological research literature in order to more easily evaluate scientific studies of health and health inequalities.

## Teaching methods

Teaching is mainly conducted through lectures by invited researchers. The students also complete a group project on health inequality and an online class on intimate partner violence and men's violence against women. The content of the course is discussed at two seminars, based on individual written assignments and presentations of group work.

Some course elements are compulsory, see heading "Examination".

## Examination

The course is examined in the following way:

- a) participation in a group assignment and presentation of this in a seminar, is graded U (Fail) or G (Pass)
- b) individual written assignment, is graded U, G or VG (Pass with distinction). The grade VG requires that the student has discussed her draft and has given feedback on others' at a seminar. The grade VG further requires that the written assignment was submitted at specified times before and after the seminar.
- c) compulsory feedback on individual assignment, orally at a seminar or otherwise in written in accordance to instructions
- d) compulsory quizzes
- e) compulsory written reflection task

The course is graded U, G or VG.

The grade G requires G on examination assignment a and b, as well as fulfillment of compulsory course elements.

The grade VG further requires VG on examination assignment b.

### *Absence from or unfulfillment of compulsory course elements*

The examiner decides whether, and if so how, absence from or unfulfillment of compulsory course elements can be made up for. Study results cannot be reported until the student has participated in or fulfilled compulsory course elements, or compensated for any absence/ failure to fulfill in accordance with instructions from the examiner. Absence from or unfulfillment of a compulsory course element may imply that the student can not retake the element until the next time the course is offered.

### *Possibility of exception from the course syllabus' regulations on examination*

If there are special grounds, or a need for adaptation for a student with a disability, the examiner may decide to deviate from the syllabus' regulations on the examination form, the number of examination opportunities, the possibility of supplementation or exemptions from the compulsory section/s of the course etc. Content and learning outcomes as well as the level of expected skills, knowledge and attitudes may not be changed, removed or reduced.

## Transitional provisions

If the course is cancelled or goes through substantial changes, information about interim regulations will be stated here.

## Other directives

Course evaluation based on the expected learning outcomes of the syllabus takes place in accordance with KI's local guidelines. Students are informed of the results and any measures taken on the course website.

## Literature and other teaching aids

### Mandatory literature and resources

#### **Den orättvisa hälsan : om socioekonomiska skillnader i hälsa och livslängd**

*Rostila, Mikael; Toivanen, Susanna*

Upplaga 2 : Stockholm : Liber, [2018] - 399 sidor

ISBN:9789147113545 LIBRIS-ID:22654106

[Library search](#)

#### **Kvinnofrid, webbkurs om våld**

Uppsala universitet, Nationellt centrum för kvinnofrid (NCK),

URL: [Kvinnofrid, webbkurs om våld](#)

Articles according to teacher's instruction (about 200 pages)