



**Karolinska  
Institutet**

Course syllabus for

# **Introduction to Public Health Sciences, 7.5 credits**

Introduktion till folkhälsovetenskap, 7.5 hp

This course has been cancelled, for further information see Transitional provisions in the last version of the syllabus.

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

[Autumn2007](#) , [Autumn2009](#) , [Autumn2011](#) , [Autumn2012](#) , [Autumn2013](#) , Autumn2014 , [Autumn2015](#) , [Autumn2016](#)

Course code	4FH004
Course name	Introduction to Public Health Sciences
Credits	7.5 credits
Form of Education	Higher Education, study regulation 2007
Main field of study	Public Health Sciences
Level	AV - Second cycle
Grading scale	Pass with distinction, Pass, Fail
Department	Department of Global Public Health
Decided by	Arbetsgruppen för masterprogrammet i folkhälsovetenskap
Decision date	2007-05-10
Revised by	Programme Committee 5
Last revision	2014-03-19
Course syllabus valid from	Autumn 2014

## **Specific entry requirements**

Bachelor's degree or professional qualification worth at least 180 credits in public health science, healthcare or other relevant social sciences subject area. Proficiency in the English language documented by an internationally recognized test such as TOEFL with a total score of at least 79 (internet based), 550 (paper based), 213 (computer based), IELTS with a total score of at least 6,0 (no band less than 5,0), or other documentation that certifies English language skills equivalent to English B at Swedish upper secondary school.

## **Objectives**

After completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Analytically discuss, in written form, basic scientific concepts, methodological perspectives, and factors that govern public health research,

- Discuss the evaluation of global trends affecting health, including communicable and non-communicable disease as well as the health impact of different environmental and lifestyle factors; ,
- Apply basic public health concepts to the theoretical management of public health problems, including disease prevention, health promotion, health economics and health policy, as well as critically compare opposing viewpoints in these fields.

## Content

During the course the main concepts, principles and methods of Public Health research and practice will be introduced in relation to four domains:

1. Foundations of public health science and perspectives to epidemiology
2. Public health perspectives to health economics, health management and policy
3. Public health perspectives to global health
4. Public health perspectives to theory of science, philosophy and ethics

The topics introduced under the four domains will include:

- Concepts, principles and methods of public health science and practice
- Evidence-based public health. Basic epidemiology, including principles of epidemiologic evaluation of public health interventions
- Data sources on populations and mortality.
- The burden of disease and other measures of population health.
- Health economics, health management and policy including principles of economic evaluation of public health interventions
- Health care systems and population health.
- Principles and methods of disease prevention and health promotion in relation to non-communicable and communicable disease
- Social and behavioral determinants of health.
- Environmental and lifestyle factors, including sustainable development and climate change as determinants of health.
- Philosophy of science, and ethics in public health research.

## Teaching methods

Each above mentioned domain includes keynote lectures followed by a series of seminars, practical exercises, and quizzes. The seminars aim to develop practical skills, professional attitude and critical thinking, and therefore include several types of interactive student-driven activities. Course activity will also include group work and student presentations. E-learning techniques such as wikis and blogs will be used during group work.

## Examination

The course includes a written individual final examination; as well as a group assignment to be submitted in writing and presented and discussed in class. In addition, a half-time examination will be used as a progress report as well as a preparation for the final written examination and will not be handed in, but discussed in class.

The final examination will be graded as pass, pass with distinction and fail, while the mandatory group assignment will be graded as pass or fail. To obtain the grade Pass on the course the student must be awarded Pass on both the group assignment and the final written examination. To obtain the grade Pass with distinction the student must be awarded Pass with distinction on the final written examination and Pass on the group assignment.

Compulsory participation

Quizzes, practical exercises, the group assignment, classes involving group work and student

presentations, the half-time exam and the final written exam are compulsory. The course coordinator assesses if and, in that case, how absence can be compensated. Before the student has participated in all compulsory parts or compensated absence in accordance with the course coordinator's instructions, the student's results for each respective part will not be registered in LADOK.

Limitation of number of occasions to write the exam

The student has the right to write the exam six times. If the student has not passed the exam after four participations he/she is encouraged to visit the study advisor.

Each time that the student has participated in one and the same examination is regarded as an examination session. Submission of a blank examination is also regarded as an examination. An examination for which the student registered but did not participate in will not be counted as an examination.

## Transitional provisions

After each course occasion there will be at least six occasions for the examination within a 2-year period from the end of the course.

## Other directives

Course evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the guidelines established by the Board of Higher Education.

The course language is English.

## Literature and other teaching aids

*Sim, Fiona.; McKee, Martin.*

### **Issues in public health**

2nd ed. : Maidenhead : McGraw-Hill/Open University Press, 2011. - xv, 273 p.

ISBN:978-0-335-24422-5 (pbk.) : £24.99 LIBRIS-ID:12639076

[Library search](#)

### ***Recommended literature***

*Schneider, Mary-Jane*

### **Introduction to public health**

3rd ed. : Sudbury, Mass. : Jones and Bartlett Publishers, c2011. - xxxvii, 595 p.

ISBN:978-0-7637-6381-7 LIBRIS-ID:12163711

[Library search](#)

*Riegelman, Richard K.*

### **Public health 101 : healthy people--healthy populations**

Sudbury, Mass. : Jones and Bartlett Publishers, c2010. - xix, 232 p.

ISBN:978-0-7637-6044-1 (pbk.) LIBRIS-ID:12749275

[Library search](#)

*Detels, Roger*

### **Oxford textbook of public health**

5th ed. : Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2009. - 3 v. (xxiv, 1729, 39 p.)

ISBN:978-0-19-921870-7 (set) LIBRIS-ID:11719045

*Published online: March 2011 DOI:10.1093/med/9780199218707.001.0001*

[Library search](#)