



**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	Education committee PHS
Last revision	2018-10-09
Course syllabus valid from	Autumn 2016

Specific entry requirements

A Bachelor's degree or a professional degree equivalent to a Swedish Bachelor's degree of at least 180 credits in public health science, healthcare or other relevant social sciences subject area. And proficiency in English equivalent to English B/English 6.

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 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 main domains:

1. Foundations of public health science, analytical approaches and major determinants of health .
2. Public health perspectives on epidemiology, health promotion, health economics, management and policy.
3. Public health perspectives on global health.
4. Public health perspectives on 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 as well as 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 KI's web-based system Ping Pong and video-lectures 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. It is mandatory for each student to equally contribute to the group assignment.

The individual 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, the 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.

Every time that the student has participated in the same examination it 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

The course has been cancelled and was offered for the last time during the autumn 2016. Examination will be provided until December 2020 for students who have not completed 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

Full-text available as e-book at the KI University library. See below:

[Library search](#)

Sim, Fiona

Issues in public health

2011

LIBRIS-ID:13265924

eBook Library Maidenhead: McGraw-Hill Education 2nd ed. 2011 eISBN: 9780335244232

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

It is recommended to use the new edition if available. Schneider, Mary-Jane Introduction to public health 4th ed.: Jones and Bartlett Learning, c2014. - xxxi, 624 p. ISBN:978-1-4496-8887-5

[Library search](#)

Fleming, Mary Louise; Parker, Elisabeth

Introduction to public health

Elsevier Health Sciences, 2012

LIBRIS-ID:17435166

*It is recommended to use the new edition if available. Fleming, Mary Louise; Parker. Elisabeth
Introduction to public health 3rd ed: Churchill Livingstone Australia, c2015. 400p. ISBN
9780729542039*

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](#)

Extra material will be specified during the course