Stockholm University

Course description

Course code: PH006F1
Course name: Early life conditions, health development, and child public health
Course credits: 7.5
Valid from: Spring term 2024 (course dates 21 March -30 April 2024)

Course content

The course will cover aspects of infant, child, and adolescent health from a public health perspective and in a national, European, and global context. Processes of transition into adulthood, with focus on reproduction are covered. Other aspects will include concepts and methods in child public health and health promotion, social pediatrics, as well as vulnerable children and their needs. Current issues in child public health are reviewed and discussed, as are children's rights and social determinants of child health and development. After the course, the student will be familiar with epidemiological methods and life-course theories and able to relate these to research and policies that support early child health and development and mitigate social inequalities in health.

Learning outcomes

In order to receive a passing grade on the course, the student should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

1. Discuss the main theories and research findings relating to health and development in the perinatal period, infancy, childhood, and adolescence.
2. Account for the main public health problems for children and adolescents and their social determinants in a national, European and global perspective.
3. Explain processes of transition to adulthood and discuss common issues in reproductive health.

Skills and abilities

4. Interpret research findings from life course research on early childhood development.

5. Apply basic methodological approaches from life course epidemiology to the study of inequalities in child health and development.

Judgement and approach

6. Discuss the role of early child development and life course research in public health policy and practice.

7. Reflect on the course content in relation to their own PhD project.

Teaching

The teaching will be based on live and recorded lectures, practicals, and seminars with student presentations. Some of the lectures will be online via Zoom (please see the detailed schedule in Athena) or in a hybrid format. Please note that this course is offered in collaboration with the Master's programme in public health sciences: Societal and individual perspectives. The teaching occasions are to be attended jointly with the master students. Participation in seminars on 11 April and 25 April is mandatory. In case of absence, the student will be given compensatory assignments.

The course will be taught in English.

Forms of examination

The course is examined through an individually written take-home exam and active participation in seminars. In case of absence, the student will be given compensatory assignments.

The home exam will be graded on a two-point grading scale (G=Pass, U=Fail).

If the student has a certificate from Stockholm University which recommends special pedagogical support, the examiner has the right to offer the student alternative forms of examination.

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The course grade will be given on a two-point grading scale (G=Pass, U=Fail). The examination will be in English. In order to receive a passing grade in the course, the student must receive passing grades on the home examination and participation in the seminars.

The home examination and participation in the seminars that received a failing U grade can receive a passing G grade with submission of a supplementary assignment, if the student is close to passing.

Two examinations are offered each time course is taught. For terms when the course is not taught, one examination is offered. Students who receive a failing grade two consecutive times from the same examiner have the right to request a different examiner to grade the examination. This request should be made to the Director of Studies.

Learning platform Athena

We use the learning platform Athena (itslearning) for sharing information and course material. You log into Athena by using your university account via: https://athena.itslearning.com/

Schedule

You can find the course schedule via the course page in Athena.

Course literature

The literature list for this course is available through the course web page and the course page in Athena.

Referencing

The APA citation format should be used for all referencing.

You can find a reference guide to APA on this page: https://kib.ki.se/en/write-cite/writing-references-apa-vancouver/reference-guides/reference-guide-apa-7

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By using a reference managing software you can collect and organize your references and insert them into your document in a desired format. Via the library's web page you can watch a film with information on how to handle your references. There you will also find information on the most used programs: https://www.su.se/cmlink/portaler-nod/webb-2021-nod/svensk-webb-2021/centrala-gamla/library/tutorials/tutorials/reference-management-software-1.264569

Plagiarism

Plagiarism, cheating, or self-plagiarism is prohibited in all parts of the course.

You may not copy text from the course literature or other sources, or present other people's ideas or work as your own – this is plagiarism. Summaries or other use of original texts must always be written in your own words and followed by a correct reference. Short quotations (with citation marks) are accepted if necessary, but should be used sparsely and always be accompanied by your own interpretation of the text and a correct reference with page number.

Self-plagiarism is to use your own text once again, without reference to your original text. This could be text from published articles, or text from other assignments you have written before, such as home exams or a thesis.

All examinations are controlled through a software for detecting plagiarism. Suspicion of cheating, plagiarism or self-plagiarism is reported to the Disciplinary Committee at Stockholm University.

For more information, please see: https://www.su.se/staff/organisation-governance/governing-documents-rules-and-regulations/education/guidelines-for-disciplinary-matters-at-stockholm-university-1.181

Use of AI chatbots

Use of ChatGPT or other AI chatbots to generate text for the take home exam or seminar presentation is not permitted. It is also not permitted to use such services to make extensive changes to the structure or content of your text or presentation.

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Use of ChatGPT or other AI chatbots to proofread text for the home exam is permitted (for example, prompts such as: "Can you proofread this text?" or "Can you check this text for grammar?" can be used).

Suspicion of illicit use of AI chatbots will be tested in tracking tools for AI-generated text and suspected cases will be reported to the Disciplinary Committee at Stockholm University.

For students who have been granted special pedagogical support

You need to inform the study counsellor (studievagledare.publichealth@su.se) that you require pedagogical support. You then also need to present the certificate which you have received from the coordinator for special pedagogical support at Stockholm University.

Please also contact the study counsellor before the start of each new course, to plan for an alternative/accommodated form of examination, if possible.

Grading criteria

Grading criteria home examination

Grade	Criteria
Pass	To obtain the grade the student must be able to give a detailed account of the concepts, theories and models relating to health and development in the perinatal period, infancy, childhood, and adolescence, and addressed during the course. The student must be able to assess strengths and weaknesses of common designs in life course research, and to propose how basic methodological approaches from life course epidemiology apply to the study of inequalities in child health and development. Furthermore, they must demonstrate their ability to critically evaluate and discuss findings from research on child health and early childhood development. They must also show a very good understanding of methodological issues in planning and implementing research on child health and early childhood development.
Fail (Fx)	Fail. Some work required before the credit can be awarded
Fail (F)	Fail. Considerable further work is required.

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Grading criteria seminars

Grade	Criteria
Pass	To obtain the grade the student must be able to account for the main public health problems for children and adolescents and their social determinants in a national, European and global perspective. The student must also demonstrate that they can critically evaluate and discuss the role of early child development and life course research in public health policy and practice.
Fail (Fx)	Not sufficient. The student identifies incorrectly burden of disease and ill health among children and adolescents and/or they do not provide a correct assessment of how outputs from life course research translate into public health policy or practice.
Fail (F)	Inadequate, failed to participate in seminars or complete compensatory assignments.

Contact information

Course manager

Ilona Grünberger, Email: ilona.koupil@su.se . You can contact me by email any time but please note that I may not be able to read and respond to your emails outside of normal working hours or during weekends and public holidays.

Course manager's consultation time

Suitable time slots for online or on-site consultations can be agreed in discussion with the course manager. For online consultations, we shall use Zoom with a meeting id: 690 6441 8549.

https://stockholmuniversity.zoom.us/j/69064418549

Course administrator

kursadmin.publichealth@su.se

Study counsellor

studievagledare.publichealth@su.se

Institutionen för folkhälsovetenskap

Director of studies, basic and advanced level

jonas.landberg@su.se

Director of studies, doctoral level

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