

Course description

Course code: PH11A1

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, students are expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

1. Identify and describe the main public health problems for children and adolescents and their social determinants in a national, European and global perspective.
2. Discuss the main theories and research findings relating to health and development in the perinatal period, infancy, childhood, and adolescence.
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 concepts and methodological approaches from life course epidemiology to the study of inequalities in child health and development.

Judgement and approach

6. Construct and present arguments regarding relevance of early child development and a life course approach in addressing common public health problems.
7. Apply knowledge of early child development in analysis and evaluation of public health policy and practice.

Teaching

The teaching will be based on live and recorded lectures, practicals and seminars. Students will also work on group assignments, and prepare and deliver presentations at seminars. The course will be taught in English.

Active participation in seminars on 21 March, 11 April and 25 April is mandatory. In case of absence, the student will be given a compensatory assignment.

Forms of examination

a) Forms of examination

Examination I. Group assignments and student presentations Learning outcomes 1, 2 and 7 are examined through group assignments and an active participation in student presentations. Grading will be based on a three-grade scale (U=Fail, G=Pass, VG=Pass with distinction).

Examination II. Individually written take-home exam Learning outcomes 3-6 are examined through an individually written take-home exam. Grading will be based on a goal-oriented scale of A to F.

Course requirements: Active participation in seminars on 21 March, 11 April and 25 April is a course requirement. In case of absence from or insufficient participation in a seminar, the student will be given a compensatory assignment

Language: The examination will be in English.

Certificate of special pedagogical support: For students who have a certificate from Stockholm University with a recommendation for special educational support, the examiner can decide to customize the teaching, give a customized test or let the student complete the test in an alternative way.

b) Course grade

The course grade will be given as follows: A = Excellent, B = Very good, C = Good, D = Adequate, E = Sufficient, Fx = Inadequate, F = Wholly inadequate

c) Grading criteria

Grading criteria Examination I

| Grade | Criteria |
|----------------------------|---|
| VG - Pass with Distinction | The student correctly identifies and succinctly and comprehensively describes main public health problems for children and adolescents in a national, European and global perspective. The student demonstrates that they can review and discuss relevant theories and research findings concerning health and development in the perinatal period, infancy, childhood, and adolescence, and that they are able to apply this knowledge in critical evaluations of public health policy and practice. |
| G - Pass | The student is able to describe and illustrate some public health problems for children and adolescents in a national, European or global perspective. The student can discuss some theories and research findings concerning health and development in the perinatal period, infancy, childhood, and adolescence, and can explain how these relate to public health policy and practice. |
| U - Fail | Inadequate. The student does not provide a correct description of main public health problems in children and adolescents or does not provide a correct assessment of how life course perspective is applied in public health policy or practice; failed to participate in seminars or group work. |

Grading criteria Examination II

| Grade | Criteria |
|---------------|--|
| A - Excellent | To obtain the grade the student must be able to give a detailed and exhaustive account of the concepts, theories and models that are dealt with during the course. Furthermore, the student must be able to critically evaluate and discuss findings from research on early childhood development, and be able to construct and present convincing arguments regarding the role of early child development in addressing common public health problems |
| B – Very Good | To obtain the grade the student must be able to give a detailed account of the concepts, theories and models that are dealt with during the course. The student must also show a good understanding of common issues in interpretation of findings from research on early childhood development, and be able to take active part in discussions about relevance of life course research for public health. |
| C - Good | To obtain the grade the student must be able to give a detailed account of the concepts, theories and models that are dealt with during the course. The student must also show a certain understanding of typical problems in interpretation of findings from |

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| | research on early childhood development. They need to be able to describe and illustrate how life course research can be applied to address specific public health problems. |
| D - Adequate | To obtain the grade the student must be able to give a good account of the concepts, theories and models that are dealt with during the course. The student must also show a basic understanding of methodological issues in research on early childhood development and be familiar with some examples of how life course research can be relevant for public health. |
| E - Sufficient | To obtain the grade the student must be able to give a basic account of the concepts, theories and models that are dealt with during the course. The student must also demonstrate their familiarity with most common methods in research on early childhood development and with some applications of life course research in public health practice or policy. |
| Fx - Inadequate | Not sufficient, some more work is required. |
| F – Wholly inadequate | Inadequate, much more work required. |

d) Final grade

In order to receive a passing grade in the course, the student must receive passing grades for Examination I-II, and have fulfilled the course requirements.

If there are special reasons, the examiner may, after consultation with the responsible teacher, grant the student exemption from the obligation to participate in certain mandatory teaching or completion of mandatory parts. The student can then be assigned a compensation assignment.

The principle for weighing is that Examination I corresponds to 1/3 (maximum 15 points) of the final grade and Examination II corresponds to 2/3 (maximum 30 points) of the final grade.

e) Examinations

For each time the course is taught, at least three examinations must normally be offered within one year. In a year when the course is not taught, at least one examination must be offered.

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. Students who receive an E or higher grade may not be re-examined for the purpose of improving the grade received.

f) Supplementary revisions

Examination I: Supplementary revisions are not allowed. Examination II: It is possible to make a revision of an Fx grade to a passing grade, if the student is close to passing. Supplementary revisions should be submitted within two weeks after the examiner has announced the need for revisions.

The passing grades A-E may be received for supplementary revisions that are related to formality errors or concern a specific part of the examination. The passing grade E may be received for supplementary revisions that reflect problems related to the more basic understanding of the material presented in the course. If the supplementary revision of the grade Fx does not meet the requirements for a passing grade, the grade F is received.

g) Late submission

Late submission is not accepted in this course. In such cases, the student is referred to the retake exam.

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 in TimeEdit via the course web page or 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 is recommended 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>

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/cm/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.

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 in the very beginning of the term (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.

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 online office hours/consultation time

For questions and clarifications about the contents of the course or examination, you are welcome to join me on Zoom on Tuesday 26/3 15.00-16.00; Thursday 4/4 15.00-16.00; Friday 12/4 15.00-16.00; Friday 19/4 15.00-16.00, and/or Friday 26/4 15.00-16.00. Zoom meeting id: 690 6441 8549.

<https://stockholmuni.zoom.us/j/69064418549>

Course administrator

kursadmin.publichealth@su.se

Study counsellor

studievagledare.publichealth@su.se

Director of studies, basic and advanced level

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