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Course description

Course code:	PH12A1
Course name:	Life-course perspectives on ageing and health
Course credits:	7.5 ECTS
Valid from:	Spring 2024

Course content

The course provides knowledge about theories and empirical evidence that describes ageing from a public health perspective. The aim is to provide the student with an overview of the development and distribution of health in the older population. After the course, the student should have basic knowledge of the association between social conditions during the life course, and health and function in old age. Furthermore, the student should have an understanding of the demography of the ageing population, as well as of how health and care vary across different groups of older adults.

Learning outcomes

In order to receive a passing grade on the course, students are expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding
1. Explain how living conditions in midlife can affect health in later life.

2. Compare different social theories on ageing.

Skills and abilities
3. Outline the associations between behaviors, living conditions and ill-health in the older population.

4. Contrast different types of ill-health in the older population.

Judgement and approach
5. Discuss the use of health and social care in different groups of the older population.
6. Discuss the health development in the older population and its consequences for society.

7. Reflect on the scientific process demonstrating competence development in the field of Public Health Sciences.

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Teaching

The course consists of around twelve lectures and two seminars (one based on group work and one based on individual assignment). The two seminars are mandatory. Absence from the group seminar can be compensated by a complementary written assignment, whereas those who are absent from the individual assignment seminar will have to attend a later seminar. The majority of lectures will be given on-site and the remaining lectures will be 'live' on Zoom. Before each lecture, the student is expected to read the listed course literature.

The course will be taught in English.

Forms of examination

The course will be examined by one group assignment and one individual assignment. Both tasks requiring a written assignment and attendance at examination seminars. The group assignment will be orally presented at the seminar. Absence from the group assignment seminar can be compensated by a complementary written assignment. The individual assignment will undergo peer-review from another student followed by a discussion at the seminar where the student must take an active part. After the course, additional seminars will be offered for students who missed the individual assignment seminar.

The guidelines for the group assignment are posted on Athena and should be submitted on Athena no later than May 20th at 5 pm. The group exercise as well as participation in the seminars will be graded according to a two-point grading scale (G=Pass, U=Fail). It is mandatory to receive a pass to be able to pass the course. In case of absence at the oral part of the group exercise, the student will be given a compensatory assignment.

The individual assignment is presented at the start of the course and information is available on Athena. The written assignment should be submitted to Athena no later than May 26th at 5 pm. On May 29th, an examination seminar with peer-review of assignments will take place. This seminar is mandatory. The student should use the feedback from the seminar and submit a revised version of the individual assignment on Athena by June 2 at 5 pm. The written assignment will be checked for plagiarism. In case of absence at the seminar the student needs to fulfil the seminar attendance on another occasion.

Grading will be based on a goal-oriented scale of A to F.

In order to receive a passing grade in the course, the student must receive passing grades for Examination I and the other grading components, as well as have fulfilled the course requirements.

The final grade is determined by the grading of Examination I.

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Learning outcome 7 is examined through active participation in the master's programme's seminar series. In case of absence from or insufficient participation in the seminar, the student will be given a compensatory assignment.

Course requirements:

Active participation in the seminars is a course requirement. In case of absence from or insufficient participation in a seminar, the student will be given a compensatory assignment.

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 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

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-

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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 ChatGPTor other AI chatbots to generate text for the take home exam is not permitted.

Use of ChatGPTor 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?").

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.

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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.

Grading criteria

Grade A
To achieve this grade, the paper should include a well-defined aim. Be written in a stringent and precise prose. Identify the key hypotheses on the mechanisms underlying the association without misunderstandings. Review the relevant literature, both in terms of theories and empirical evidence. Identify and assess strengths and limitations in the literature. Stringently discuss the chosen factor in terms of its relation to health in old age, and implications for population health.

Grade B
All requirements for C, and at least one of the additional requirements of A.

Grade C
To achieve this grade, the paper should include a well-defined aim. Identify the key hypotheses on the mechanisms underlying the association without misunderstandings. Review the relevant literature, both in terms of theories and empirical evidence. Relate the chosen factor specifically to health in old age, and implications for population health.

Grade D
All requirements for E, and at least one of the additional requirements of C.

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Grade E
To achieve this grade, the paper should present a relevant aim. Identify and present the relevant literature, with few misunderstandings. Use references throughout the text, with a reference list at the end.

Grade Fx
If the paper fails to fulfil one of the requirements for E, the paper will get the grade Fx.

Grade F
If the paper fails to fulfil two, or more, of the requirements for E, the paper will get the grade F.

*The group assignment is graded pass/fail.

About the grade Fx
Students who receive Fx will be given the opportunity to make the necessary revision of the assignment to receive the grade E without undergoing re-examination.

Contact information

Course managers

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Study counsellor

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