Stockholm University

Course description

Course code: PH01A1
Course name: An introduction to public health sciences
Course credits: 7,5
Valid from: Autumn 2024

Course content

The course provides knowledge about public health sciences. The aim is to introduce students to public health sciences, presenting the social science profile of the discipline at the Department of Public Health Sciences. After the course students will be able to identify main theoretical frameworks, recognize relevant concepts and identify controversial debates related to the discipline. The course covers a review of the history of the discipline, an introduction to public health' main areas of action with a focus on health research, and a presentation of the main theoretical frameworks.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

1. Recognize demographic and epidemiological frameworks relevant to public health sciences.
2. Identify main theoretical frameworks and theories in public health today.
3. Associate relevant concepts and debates with the development of the discipline.

Skills and abilities

4. Explain the social science perspective on public health sciences.
5. Relate epidemiological paradigms and medical models to the development of public health sciences.

Judgement and approach

6. Reflect on how social and medical factors interrelate in the development of public health.
7. Reflect on the scientific process demonstrating competence development on the field of public health sciences.

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Teaching

The course will consist of eight sessions - a combination of lectures and group discussions to ensure an interactive learning environment. Most of the sessions will be preceded by preparatory work consisting of short videos and readings, to be completed during the student's own time. The preparatory material will be made available on Athena as soon as the previous session is completed.

The course will be taught in English.

Forms of examination

Learning outcomes 1-3 are examined through a multiple choice-test. Grading will be based on a two-scale (U=Fail, G= Pass). Learning outcome 4 to 7 will be examined through an individual home exam. Grading will be based on a goal-oriented scale of A to F (more details below).

The course includes a group work (course requirement) that consists of a written assignment and an oral presentation at a seminar. In case of absence from or insufficient participation in the group work and/or presentation, the student will be given a compensatory assignment. The guidelines for the group assignment are posted on Athena and should be submitted on Athena.

In order to receive a passing grade in this course, the student must receive at least an E grade on the individual home exam, a passing grade on the multiple-choice test and complete the group exercise.

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.

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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-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.

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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 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.

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

The answer of the individual home exam is evaluated considering the following domains: Factual/content, relevance and coherence, use of the course literature and formal issues. Each domain is evaluated with a 5-point scale: 3 (excellent), 2.5 (very good), 2 (good), 1.5 (acceptable) and 1 (unacceptable). An answer is considered to 'excellent' when it includes all correct facts, defines and explains concepts and theories whenever are introduced, elaborates the arguments relating facts and theories in a coherent fashion and shows a critical reflection supported by the literature. In addition, the answer uses extensive course literature to support facts/concepts and is carefully presented (understandable languages, appropriate referencing).

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Weight: the domains 'formal issues' and 'use of course literature' have a factor 2, the domain 'factual/content' has a factor 7 and the domain 'relevance and coherence' has a factor 5.

Grade A

The answer is considered excellent when obtaining more than 10.50 points

Grade B

The answer is considered very good when obtaining between 9.00 and 10.49 points

Grade C

The answer is considered good when obtaining between 7.50 and 8.99 points

Grade D

The answer is considered satisfactory when obtaining between 6.50 and 7.49 points

Grade E

The answer is considered sufficient when obtaining between 6.00 and 6.49 points

Grade Fx

The answer is considered insufficient when obtaining less than 6.00 points due to receiving 'unacceptable' in the 'formal issues' or 'use of course literature' domains

Grade F

The answer is considered insufficient when obtaining less than 6.00 due to receiving 'unacceptable' in the 'factual/content' and 'relevance and coherence' domains.

About the grade Fx

It is possible to revise a home exam that received an Fx grade to a passing grading, if the student is close to passing

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Contact information

Course manager

Sol P Juárez
Please contact the course managers via the message function in Athena.

Course administrator

kursadmin.publichealth@su.se

Study counsellor

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Director of studies, basic and advanced level

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