



DEPARTMENT OF NEUROBIOLOGY, CARE SCIENCES AND SOCIETY

H1F6107, Occupational Science Conceptual Development and Application on Research, 3 credits (hec)

Aktivitetsvetenskap: Konceptuell utveckling och tillämpning inom forskning, 3 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Approval

This syllabus was approved by The Committee for Doctoral Education on 2026-01-29, and is valid from autumn semester 2026.

Responsible department

Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences and Society, Faculty of Medicine

Prerequisite courses, or equivalent

No prerequisite courses, or equivalent, demanded for this course.

Purpose & Intended learning outcomes

Purpose

The aim of the course is to develop theoretical and conceptual understanding of occupational science, including how theories and concepts within the field can be applied to a specific research area or project. This deeper knowledge also involves developing critical thinking skills in applying theories and concepts, recognizing limitations, and exploring opportunities for further understanding.

Intended learning outcomes

Using relevant conceptual resources, upon completing the course, the learner should be able to:

1. Describe the development of occupational science, with a focus on its theoretical assumptions.
2. Identify and explain different concepts in occupational science and their relation to health-related issues.
3. Integrate and apply an occupational science concept in a research area or project, discussing

strengths and limitations or gaps and the need for further understanding.

4. Critically appraise the strengths and limitations of a student's application of an occupational science concept in their research area or project, demonstrating the ability to integrate course literature in the appraisal and provide constructive feedback.

Course content

The course describes the emergence and development of occupational science as an academic discipline, highlighting the latest integration of critical social theory and the concepts associated with this critical lens. The course is divided into four clear themes that illustrate different periods in the development of occupational science. This approach facilitates students' focus on different periods in a manner that is clear and easily comprehensible to students.

During the course, key concepts will be introduced, linked to specific themes and periods of development. During the course, students will also have the opportunity to discuss their interpretations of the concepts presented and to develop initial ideas for the final exam.

Theme 1: Development of occupational science (i.e., history, main concepts such as occupational identity, occupational balance)

Theme 2: Development of critical occupational science (i.e., history and main concepts such as occupational choice, non-sanctioned occupations)

Theme 3: Sociopolitical and cultural influences on occupation (lectures on e.g., community mobility, human displacement, digital/technology marginalization, and occupational rights)

Theme 4: Promoting health and social participation of marginalized populations (lectures on e.g., community-based participatory research with older people and young groups)

Forms of teaching and learning

The course is online and uses literature, lectures, and seminars to support students' understanding of concepts and their application in research through assignments. The learning experience is grounded in self-directed learning, which includes active reading, personal reflection, and group work. In the group work, students (in pairs) will lead seminars and present key concepts drawn from assigned readings. The course requires the learner's active involvement. Peer learning will be used to present key concepts and lead seminars (in pairs). Peer learning will also be used to provide constructive feedback on each other's oral presentations of their projects, which involve applying an occupational science concept to their research area or project.

Language of instruction

The course is given in English

Grading scale

Pass (G) /Fail (U)

Compulsory components & forms of assessment

Compulsory components

The students are expected to participate in scheduled teaching and learning activities in the course. Absence will be compensated in agreement with the course leader.

Forms of assessment

- 1) Written short reflections on the assigned readings of key concepts for each theme, aligning with the course's intended learning outcome: Identify and explain different concepts in occupational science and their relation to health-related issues.
- 2) Presenting a seminar in pairs based on assigned readings for a particular theme. The students will choose a concept to deepen their understanding of it. This aligns with the course's intended learning outcome: Identify and explain different concepts in occupational science and their relation to health-related issues.
- 3) Oral presentation and written assignment where students choose an occupational science concept discussed during the course and apply it to a research area or project. This aligns with the course's intended learning outcome: Integrate and apply an occupational science concept in a research area or project, discussing strengths and limitations or gaps and the need for further understanding
- 4) Peer reviewing, where students give each other constructive feedback on the oral presentation of their written assignment as a part of the learning process. This aligns with the course's intended learning outcome: Critically appraise the strengths and limitations of a student's application of an occupational science concept in their research area or project, demonstrating the ability to integrate course literature in the appraisal and provide constructive feedback.

Course literature

Recommended literature:

- Selected chapters from: The Routledge International Handbook of Occupational Science (Forthcoming) edited by Hocking, Aldrich, Farias, Nayar, Magalhaes, Nhunzvi, Larson, Bailliard, Laliberte Rudman, Rogers, Morrison, Stanley, and Simaan.
- Articles for each seminar will be provided via Canvas.