



DEPARTMENT OF NEUROBIOLOGY, CARE SCIENCES AND SOCIETY

H1F6116, Public Health Research - Concepts and Theories, 3 credits (hec)

Folkhälsovetenskaplig forskning - koncept och teorier, 3 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Approval

This syllabus was approved by The Committee for Doctoral Education on 2026-03-06, 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

This course is designed for students in all areas related to advancing the health of the population or who want an understanding of the theories and concepts relevant when doing public health research. After this course the student should be able to put her/his research in a public health context and relate it to key public health concepts.

Intended learning outcomes

The learning outcomes are:

1. Discuss what constitutes a public health issue;
2. Reflect upon key public health concepts in relation to your own research area;
3. Discuss how theory can aid in advancing research in public health

Course content

The course provides knowledge on key concepts and theories in the multidisciplinary field of public health and an overview of the development of public health as a research area. Areas that will be covered include the concept of health and how it may be measured, global health needs and priorities, health policies, health prevention and promotion as well as determinants of health and health inequalities. Theories in these areas as well as on social stratification, gender and intersectionality are explored.

Forms of teaching and learning

Different strategies for teaching and learning will be used such as lectures, group-discussions, peer reviewing and article seminars. The focus will be on critically reflecting upon the knowledge and relating it to your own research.

Language of instruction

The course is given in English

Grading scale

Pass (G) /Fail (U)

Compulsory components & forms of assessment

Compulsory components

Group assignments, article seminars and seminar on individual assignment are compulsory. If the student is unable to attend, a written report of the questions related must be handed in.

Forms of assessment

To pass the course the student has to achieve the learning outcomes and this will be assessed in small group assignments and an individual assignment.

Course literature

During the course we will introduce different types of literature like articles, reports and text books. The students will get introduced to the core literature within each area for future references relevant to each students area of research. Most literature will be available online, but as an introduction to public health we recommend the book:

The new public Health, by Fran Baum, (4th edition) Oxford University Press, 2015, ISBN: 9780195588088

This book covers many of the areas what we will touch upon in the course.

For e-book alternative see the following suggestions:

Issues in Public Health second edition, edited by Fiona Sim and Martin McKee, Open

University Press, UK, 2011, ISBN-13: 978-0335244225

and

Graham, H. (2007). Unequal lives: health and socioeconomic inequalities. Maidenhead: Open University Press. [electronic resource]

LIBRIS-ID:21107146

These textbooks are available as e-books on the KI library's website.

Articles and further reading will be distributed during the course.

Other information

Replacing previous course code K9F2928.