



DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

K9F5693, Inequalities in Health – Mechanisms and Measurement, 3 credits (hec)

Ojämlighet i hälsa - mekanismer och mätteknik, 3 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Approval

This syllabus was approved by the The Committee for Doctoral Education on 2023-12-27, and was last revised on 2025-03-17. The revised course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2025.

Responsible department

Department of Global Public Health, Faculty of Medicine

Prerequisite courses, or equivalent

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

Purpose & Intended learning outcomes

Purpose

The course aims to introduce and discuss theories and mechanisms behind inequalities in health as well as some of the major social determinants of health. The course intends to enable PhD students and postdocs, especially within research areas related to public health, to acquire increased knowledge and skills to discuss and measure inequalities in health. After this course the student should be able to reflect with a research mindset over his/her own research from the perspective of social determinants of health and inequalities in health.

Intended learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student should be able to:

1. Describe some theories and models of how health inequalities are generated and how health inequalities can be measured.
2. Discuss advantages and disadvantages of different measures of socioeconomic position
3. Describe the social gradient in health
4. Reflect upon aspects of inequalities in health in relation to your own research area

Course content

In this course different theories and mechanisms behind inequalities in health will be introduced, as well as some of the major social determinants of health. In addition, the distribution of social determinants of health in the population and how this may create a social gradient of disease and ill health in the population will be discussed.

Different methods to measure health inequalities as well as advantages and disadvantages of different measures of socioeconomic position will be discussed.

As part of the course, students are expected in an individual assignment to reflect on their own research from the perspective of inequalities in health, with reference to the course literature.

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 the seminar on individual assignment are compulsory.

Forms of assessment

Successful examination involves

- Completed individual assignment
- Presentation of own written reflection, and commenting on the reflection of others
- Participation in mandatory seminars and group work

Course literature

Recommended literature

Selected chapters from Graham H. Unequal lives health and socioeconomic inequalities.

Maidenhead; Open University Press; 2007 (available as e-book through KI library). In addition, selected scientific articles will be distributed through the course's learning platform.