

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Master's thesis in public health

Examensarbete i folkhälsovetenskap

30.0 Higher Education

Credits

30.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	PH4100
Valid from:	Autumn 2015
Date of approval:	2015-03-24
Department	Department of Public Health Sciences
Main field:	Public Health
Specialisation:	A2E - Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Decision

The syllabus was approved by the board for Centre for Health Equity Studies (CHESS), Stockholm University/Karolinska Institutet 2015-03-24.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Admitted to the master's programme Population Health: Societal and Individual Perspectives with completed courses corresponding to at least 45 credits within the master's programme, including 7.5 credits from courses in methodology, or have successfully completed corresponding courses.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
T410	Master thesis I - proposal	7.5
T411	Master thesis II - final	22.5

Course content

The purpose of the course is to, based on the knowledge acquired during previous courses within the Master's programme, independently accomplish a research assignment. The course consists of two parts. In the first part, the student will formulate a research question, decide on data and methods, and write an outline for the thesis (master thesis proposal), which will be presented and discussed during a seminar. In the second part of the course, the remaining part of the thesis work will be carried out, including acquiring of data, analysing data, and writing the thesis. The master thesis will be defended during a seminar.

Learning outcomes

After the course the student will be able to:

- Specify a research question relevant to the area of public health.
- Accomplish an empirical study within a planned time frame.
- Motivate the choice of data, methods, and analysis.
- Evaluate the validity and reliability of the results and draw well-informed conclusions.
- Conduct research in accordance with ethical guidelines.
- Write in accordance to scientific criteria using a well-turned language and correctly link together research question, theory, analysis, discussion, and conclusions.
- To present, defend, critically assess and discuss a scientific study.

Education

The teaching in the first part of the course will be based on lectures and seminars on scientific writing, formulating research questions, methods and planning a research project. The first part ends with a seminar where the master thesis proposals will be presented and discussed. The second part of the master course will be based on individual work with regular meetings with the supervisor. There will also be teacher guided seminars to discuss general problems, ethical considerations and the progress of the work. The course ends with a master thesis seminar.

Forms of examination

a) The course will be examined in two parts: a master thesis proposal and a complete master thesis. In the first part of the examination, the student also needs to present and defend the master thesis proposal at a mandatory seminar, and discuss another student's thesis proposal. The second part of the examination also includes defending the complete master thesis at a seminar, and to critically assess, present and discuss another student's master thesis.

b) The grading on the course is based on a goal-based seven-point grading scale:

A=Excellent
B=Very good
C=Good
D=Satisfactory
E=Sufficient
Fx=Not sufficient
F=Fail

The master thesis proposal will be graded according to a two-point grading scale: pass (G) or do not pass (U). The complete master thesis will be graded according to the seven-point scale A-F. The student needs a pass grade on the master thesis proposal before the complete thesis is defended at a seminar and graded.

c) The grading criteria will be distributed at course start.

d) In order to pass on the course, the students are required to get a pass grade (G) on the master thesis proposal and at least the grade E on the complete master thesis.

e) A-E will count as pass on the course. Students who received the grade E or higher cannot undergo a new examination with the purpose of improving the grade. Students who receive Fx or F on their master thesis have the right to undergo additional examination to receive at least the grade E. Students who received the grade Fx or F (or the grade U for parts of the examination which is graded according to a two-point grading scale) twice in a row by the same examiner have the right to request another examiner to decide upon the grade for the course if there are not specific reasons speaking against this. The request should be forwarded to the Director of Studies.

f) Students who receive the grade Fx on the master thesis will get an opportunity to adjust the thesis to receive at least the grade E. The examiner decides on what needs to be adjusted in the thesis.

g) Students are entitled to at least 30 hours of supervision, of which approximately one third include meetings. The supervision can be individual or take place in a smaller group. Supervision is normally only provided during the academic year the student is registered for the course.

h) The following criteria are taken into account when grading the complete master thesis: 1) The quality of the thesis (Theoretical understanding and analysis; Methodological knowledge and competence; Writing of the thesis); 2) Independence and Adherence to time frame, and 3) Opposition and Defence. In order to get a pass grade, all areas must be assessed as at least acceptable despite deficits. More detailed grading criteria are found in the course description.

i) In certain circumstances, the student may change supervisor. The request for change of supervisor should be forwarded to the Director of Studies. If a new supervisor is assigned, the student is entitled to the remaining hours of supervision. Change of examiner can only take place under the circumstances described in e) above.

j) Students who do not finish the master thesis within the course dates can ask for prolonged time for supervision. The request should be sent to the Director of Studies.

Interim

Students can request an examination in accordance to this curriculum up to three terms after it has ceased or

been significantly altered.

Limitations

The course overlaps in content with a previous version of this course ("Master thesis in public health", course code: PH4000) to an extent of 30 credits and can therefore not be included in the same university degree as that course.

Required reading

The course literature is decided upon together with the supervisor.