

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Research methodology**  
**Forskningsmetodik**

**7.5 Higher Education  
Credits**  
**7.5 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	PH02A0
<b>Valid from:</b>	Autumn 2020
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2019-08-27
<b>Department</b>	Department of Public Health Sciences
<b>Main field:</b>	Public Health
<b>Specialisation:</b>	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

## Decision

Determined by the Board of the Department of Public Health Sciences, 2019-08-27.

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

A degree comprising at least 180 credits, including an independent thesis comprising at least 15 credits, as well as English proficiency equivalent to English 6.

## Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
T021	Individually written take-home exam	7.5

## Course content

The purpose of the course is to provide the student with knowledge of and experience in research methods in social science. The course covers: basic epistemology, paradigms and theories used in social science research, ethics and politics of social science research, research designs and their implementations.

## Learning outcomes

In order to receive a passing grade on the course, the student should be able to:

- Describe the most common paradigms used in social research
- Understand and use inductive and deductive reasoning.
- Demonstrate knowledge about the role of theory in social research.
- Account for the major ethical issues in social research.
- Discuss the role of politics and ideology in social research.
- Describe the most common research designs in social science.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the link between unit of analysis and research design.
- Reason about the implementation of a research project in terms of conceptualization, operationalization and measurement.
- Reflect on the scientific process in relation to their own competence development in the field of Public Health Sciences.

## Education

The teaching will be based on seminars/workshops.

Participation in the seminars/workshops is mandatory. In case of absence, the student will be given compensatory assignments.

The course will be taught in English.

See the course description for more detailed information. The course description will be available at least one month before the course starts.

### **Forms of examination**

a) The course is examined through an individually written take-home exam, as well as active participation in the seminars/workshops, which includes individually written assignments and preparatory exercises. In case of absence, the student will be given compensatory assignments.

The take-home exam will be graded on a goal-based seven-point grading scale (A-F).

The participation in the seminars/workshops will be graded on a two-point grading scale (G=Pass, U=Fail).

The principles for weighting each part of the examination are presented in the grading criteria.

The examination will be in English.

If the student has a certificate from Stockholm University which recommends special pedagogical support, the examiner has the right to offer the student alternative forms of examination.

b) The course grade will be given on a goal-based seven-point grading scale:

A = Excellent  
B = Very good  
C = Good  
D = Adequate  
E = Sufficient

#### **Fail grades**

Fx = Fail, some more work required  
F = Fail, much more work required

c) The grading criteria will be presented to the students in writing when the course begins.

d) In order to receive a passing grade in the course, the student must receive at least an E grade on the take-home exam, and passing grades on the participation in the seminars/workshops.

e) Two examinations are offered each time the course is taught. For terms when the course is not taught, one examination is offered.

Students who receive a failing grade two consecutive times from the same examiner have the right to request a different examiner to grade the examination. This request should be made to the Director of Studies.

Students who receive an E or higher grade may not be re-examined for the purpose of improving the grade received.

f) It is possible to revise a take-home exam that received an Fx grade to a passing grade, if the student is close to passing.

The passing grades A-E may be received for supplementary revisions that are related to formality errors.

The passing grade E may be received for supplementary revisions that reflect problems related to the more basic understanding of the material presented in the course.

If the supplementary revision of the grade Fx does not meet the requirements for a passing grade, the grade F is received.

Participation in seminars/workshops that received a failing U grade can receive a passing G grade with submission of a supplementary assignment, if the student is close to passing.

### **Interim**

Students may request an examination in accordance with this syllabus up to three semesters after the course has ceased or changed significantly.

### **Limitations**

The content of this course overlaps with the course "Method I: Introduction to quantitative methods in psychology, sociology and epidemiology" (course code: PH1003) to the extent of 7.5 credits and, therefore, cannot be part of a degree in which "Method I: Introduction to quantitative methods in psychology, sociology and epidemiology" is also included.

### **Misc**

Plagiarism, cheating, and self-plagiarism is prohibited in all parts of the course. Suspicion of such cases is reported to the Disciplinary Board at Stockholm University.

This course is given as part of Term 1 of the Master's programme in public health sciences: Societal and individual perspectives. The course is also offered as a single-subject course to the extent there are available resources.

### **Required reading**

The current course literature will be published on the department's website, [www.su.se/publichealth](http://www.su.se/publichealth), at least two months before the course begins.