

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Health and policy in the welfare state
Hälsa och politik i välfärdsstaten

7.5 Higher Education
Credits
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	PH14A0
Valid from:	Autumn 2021
Date of approval:	2019-08-27
Department	Department of Public Health Sciences
Main field:	Public Health
Specialisation:	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
T141	Individually written take-home exam	7.5

Course content

The course introduces welfare research and adopts a historical and comparative perspective based on different countries and different welfare models. It addresses how the welfare state's institutional characteristics and programmes can affect stratification processes and health – for example by policies that may affect the social determinants of health such as impact on gender differences, redistribution of resources, and poverty risks. The course further covers neoliberal influences on public health and welfare policies, and some of its consequences, since the 1990s such as: marketisation of health and welfare systems through privatisation and de-regulation, shifts towards conditioning and activation policies, governance, individualisation of health, and responsabilisation.

Learning outcomes

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

- Describe historical changes and different ways of capturing welfare state activities and characteristics (e.g. regime approach, expenditure approach and the institutional approach) as well as discuss various advantages and disadvantages of these.
- Analyse and critically evaluate how public health and welfare policies may affect social stratification and redistribution of resources as well as health outcomes and health inequalities with special emphasis on the types of mechanisms that may be operating.
- Analyse the significance of neoliberal transformations of policies and welfare states and corresponding shifts towards marketisation, activation policies, conditioning, as well as individualisation and responsabilisation of health and inequality issues.
- 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 lectures and seminars.

Participation in the seminars 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 active participation in seminars, an individual written assignment, and an individually written take-home exam. The individual assignment is presented at an examination seminar. The examination seminar also includes commenting on another student's assignment and actively participating in the discussions. 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 written assignment (including participation, presentation and commenting at the examination seminar) as well as the participation in the seminars will be graded on a two-point grading scale (G=Pass, U=Fail).

The principles for weighing 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 that 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 written assignment (including participation, presentation and commenting at the examination seminar) as well as the participation in the seminars.

e) Two examinations are offered each time 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 home exam that received an Fx grade to a passing grading, 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.

A written assignment (including participation, presentation and commenting at the examination seminar) as well as participation in the seminars that received a failing U grades 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 "Welfare states, social policy and health" (course code: PH011S) to the extent of 7.5 credits and, therefore, cannot be part of a degree in which "Welfare states, social policy and health" 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 3 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, at least two months before the course begins.