

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Master thesis in public health sciences**  
**Examensarbete i folkhälsovetenskap**

**30.0 Higher Education Credits**  
**30.0 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	PH21A0
<b>Valid from:</b>	Spring 2022
<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>	A1F - Second cycle, has second-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. At least 45 credits, including 7.5 credits worth of methods, within "Master's programme in public health sciences: Societal and individual perspectives".

## Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
T211	Master thesis part II - proposal	7.5
T212	Master thesis part II - final	22.5

## Course content

The aim of the course is to independently write a master thesis, by applying the knowledge and skills acquired during previous courses in the programme. In the first part of the course, the student chooses a research question and identifies a data material, analytical method, and literature of relevance for the research question. This work is summarised in a proposal which is to be discussed at a seminar. In the second part of the course, the student finishes the master thesis, which includes formulation of the research problem, overview of relevant literature, acquisition and analysis of data, as well as interpretation and discussion of the results. The master theses are discussed at seminars.

## Learning outcomes

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

- Independently identify and formulate a research question of relevance for Public Health Sciences.
- Integrate scientific theories, perspectives, and empirical studies of relevance for the research question in a critical and systematic way.
- Plan and with adequate methods conduct an empirical study within the specified time frames.
- Account for and critically discuss their conclusions as well as the underlying knowledge and arguments.
- Make adequate assessments that include a consideration of relevant scientific, societal, and ethical aspects.
- Show ability to write in accordance with scientific criteria, with a well-turned language and in a correct manner link together the research question, theory, analysis, discussion, and conclusions.

- Defend, present, and critically evaluate a scientific study.
- 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 supervision, lectures, and group seminars. Both parts of the course end with an examination seminar during which the student's proposal and master thesis, respectively, is presented, evaluated, and discussed.

Participation in the group 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 in two parts. The examination for the first part of the course involves the submission of an individually written proposal. Moreover, the student will defend their own proposal as well as evaluate another student's proposal at a seminar. The examination for the second part of the course involves the submission of an individually written master thesis. The student will defend their own master thesis as well as present and evaluate another student's master thesis at a seminar. The examination also builds on active participation in the group seminars.

In case of absence from the group seminars, the student will be given compensatory assignments.

The proposal (including participation in the final seminar) and the participation in the group seminars will be graded on a two-point grading scale (G=Pass, U=Fail). The proposal has to receive a passing grade before the master thesis can be presented at a seminar. The master thesis (including participation in the final seminar) will be graded on a goal-based seven-point grading scale (A-F). 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 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

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 master thesis, and passing grades on the proposal and participation in the group 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 master thesis 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.

A proposal and participation in seminars 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.

g) The student is entitled to 30 hours of supervision, of which approximately one-third consists of meetings. The supervision may be given to each individual student or in groups. Typically, supervision is only offered in the academic year during which the student is registered on the course.

h) The grading of the submitted master thesis is based on the following criteria: 1) Quality of the master thesis (Theoretical understanding; Methodological skills and competences; Writing of the master thesis); 2) Independence and Adherence to time frame; 3) Opposition and Defence. For a passing grade, all criteria must be assessed as acceptable despite deficits.

See the course description for more detailed information about the grading criteria.

i) Under certain circumstances, the student has the right to change supervisor. This request should be made to the Director of Studies. If the request is approved, the student is entitled to any remaining hours of supervision.

j) Students who do not finish their master thesis during the specified time frame, may apply to the Director of Studies for an extended period of supervision.

### **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 courses "Master thesis in public health" (course code: PH4000) and "Master's thesis in public health" (course code: PH4100) to the extent of 30 credits and, therefore, cannot be part of a degree in which "Master thesis in public health" or "Master's thesis in public health" are 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 4 of the Master's programme in public health sciences: Societal and individual perspectives.

### **Required reading**

The course literature will vary between students and is decided upon in consultation with the supervisor.