

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Research methodology
Forskningsmetodik

7.5 Higher Education
Credits
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	PH02A1
Valid from:	Autumn 2022
Date of approval:	2022-04-26
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.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

A degree comprising at least 180 credits, and English proficiency equivalent to English 6.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
0201	Examination I: 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:

Knowledge and understanding

1. Describe the most common paradigms used in social research.
2. Demonstrate knowledge about the role of theory in social research.
3. Describe the most common research designs in social science.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the link between unit of analysis and research design.

Skills and abilities

5. Understand and use inductive and deductive reasoning.
6. Reason about the implementation of a research project in terms of conceptualization, operationalization and measurement.

Judgement and approach

7. Discuss the role of politics and ideology in social research.
8. Account for the major ethical issues in social research.

9. 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) Forms of examination

Examination I. Individually written take-home exam

Learning outcomes 1-8 are examined through an individually written take-home exam.

Other grade-based elements

Learning outcome 9 is examined through active participation in the master programme's seminar series.

Course requirements

Active participation in the seminars is a course requirement. In case of absence from or insufficient participation in the seminars, including the master's programme's seminar series, the student will be given a compensatory assignment.

Language

The examination will be in English.

Certificate of special pedagogical support

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) Course grade

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) Grading criteria

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

d) Final grade

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 other grade-based elements and course requirements.

The final grade will be based on the grade for Examination I.

e) Examinations

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) Supplementary revisions

Supplementary revisions should be submitted within a week after the examiner has announced the need for revisions.

Examination I

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.

Other grade based components

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

g) Late submission

Late submission is not accepted. In this case the student is referred to the re-take exam.

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) and "Research methodology" (course code: PH02A0) 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" or "Research methodology" 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/PH02A1), at least two months before the course begins.