Department of Public Health Science

Stockholm University

Syllabus

for course at research level

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

7.5 Higher Education Credits
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	PH008F1
Valid from:	Autumn 2021
Department	Department of Public Health Sciences

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Learning outcomes

In order to receive a passing grade on the course, students are expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding
1. 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.

Skills and abilities
2. Analyse the significance of neoliberal transformations of policies and welfare states and corresponding shifts towards marketisation, activation policies, conditioning, as well as individualisation and responsibilisation of health and inequality issues.

Judgement and approach
3. 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.

4. Reflect on the course content in relation to their own PhD project.

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, individualisation of health, and responsibilisation.

Mandatory exams

Attendance at lectures and seminars is not mandatory. Attendance at examination seminars are mandatory.

Forms of examination

a) Forms of examination

Examination I. Individually written take-home exam
Learning outcomes 1-4 are examined through an individually written take-home exam. Grading will be based on a two-point grading scale (G=Pass, U=Fail).

Other grading components
Learning outcomes 1-3 are also examined through the submission of an individual written assignment that is orally presented at an examination seminar. This work also includes commenting upon another student's individual assignment at an examinations seminar, as well as active participation in the discussion during these examination seminars. In
case of absence from or insufficient participation in the seminars, the student will be given compensatory assignments.

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) Course grade

The course grade will be given as follows:

G = Pass
U = Fail

c) Grading criteria

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

d) Final grade

In order to receive a passing grade in the course, the student must receive passing grades (G) for Examination I and the other grading components.

The final grade is based on Examination I.

e) Examinations

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.

f) Supplementary revisions

Examination I that received failing (U) grade can receive passing (G) grade with submission of supplementary assignment, if the student is close to passing.

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

g) Late submission

Late submission is not accepted in this course. In such cases, the student is referred to the retake exam.

Form of instruction

The teaching will be based on lectures and seminars.

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The course will be taught in English.

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

The current course literature will be published on the department's website, (www.su.se/publichealth/PH008F1), at least two months before the course begins.

This course is given in collaboration with the “Master’s programme in Public Health Sciences: Societal and Individual Perspectives”. Joint lectures with master students are therefore applied.