

# Syllabus

for research course

**Theory of knowledge and ethics in Public Health Sciences**  
**Vetenskapsteori och forskningsetik inom folkhälsovetenskap**

**4.5 Higher Education**  
**Credits**  
**4.5 ECTS credits**

**Course code:** PH020F1  
**Valid from:** Autumn 2022  
**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. Discuss the main theories of how knowledge is created, acquired, disseminated, and implemented in the context of social science perspective on public health.
2. Explain how different approaches to knowledge creation impact on research, policy, and practice in public health.
3. Account for the fundamental principles of ethics and explain how these apply to public health practice.

#### *Skills and abilities*

4. Apply the fundamental principles of ethics to address dilemmas in public health practice and research.
5. Design and present a strategy for obtaining informed consent from participants in a research project.

#### *Judgement and approach*

6. Reflect on the role of fundamental principles, knowledge beliefs and values in shaping public health practice and research.
7. Prepare and present arguments about a balance between risks and benefits of research in public health.

## Content

The course will introduce the student to the theory of knowledge and to the fundamental principles of ethics as applied in public health. The course will focus on the relationships between science, policy and practice. Aspects of justice and fairness in public health will also be discussed, and current issues in public health ethics will be reviewed. After the course, the student will be familiar with major theories and concepts pertaining to research and professional ethics and be able to relate them to public health practice and research.

## Mandatory exams

Active participation in seminars and student representations is mandatory. In case of absence, the student will be given compensatory assignments.

## Forms of examination

- a) The course is examined through:

*Examination I. Active participation in seminars*

Learning outcomes 1-2 are examined through active participation in seminars. Grading will be based on a two-grade scale (U=Fail, G=Pass). In case of absence or if the student receive a fail grade, the student will be given compensatory assignments.

*Examination II. Group work with student presentations*

Learning outcomes 3-4 are examined through a group assignment with student presentations. Grading will be based on a two-grade scale (U=Fail, G=Pass). In case of absence or if the student receive a fail grade, the student will be given compensatory assignments.

*Examination III. Individual home examination*

Learning outcomes 5-7 are examined through an individual home exam. Grading will be based on a two-grade scale (U=Fail, G=Pass).

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 as follows:

G = Pass

U = Fail

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

d) In order to receive a passing grade in the course, the student must receive pass grade (G) on Examination I-III, as well as have fulfilled the requirements for mandatory exams.

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.

Home exam that received failing U grades can receive passing G grades with submission of supplementary assignment, if the student is close to passing.

**Form of instruction**

The teaching will be based on lectures, practicals, seminars and group work with student presentations.

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](http://www.su.se/publichealth), at least two months before the course begins.