MGH400  Degree project in global health, 30 credits
Examensarbete i global hälsa, 30 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle

Confirmation
This course syllabus was confirmed by Institute of Medicine on 2017-10-06 and was last revised on 2019-01-11 to be valid from 2019-01-11, spring semester of 2019.

Field of education:  Medicine 100%
Department:  Institute of Medicine

Other participating departments
School of Global Studies
Department of Social Work
Department of Literature, History of Ideas, and Religion

Position in the educational system
The course is included in the master program for global health and is given at semester 4.
The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Master's Programme in Global Health (V2GLH)

Main field of studies  Specialization
Global Health  A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Entry requirements
To be admitted to the course, the student must have obtained approved results in at least one of the Master's program in Global Health courses offered at the advanced level, ie MGH102 Quantitative and Qualitative Methods, 15 credits and / or MGH301 Epidemiology and Biostatistics with a focus on social epidemiology, 15 credits. In
addition, the student must have obtained approved results in at least two of the program's main focus area courses, such as MGH101 Global Health Issues in an Interdisciplinary Context, 15 credits; MGH201 Governing health and illness in a global perspective, 15 credits; MGH301 Epidemiology and biostatistics with a focus on social epidemiology, 15 credits; or MGH302 Health promotion and disease prevention in at risk groups: strategies and methods, 15 credits.

Learning outcomes
On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding
• demonstrate in-depth knowledge of a selected area of research, and present its empirical relevance to the academic discipline of global health;

Competence and skills
• independently and innovatively identify and formulate a scientific question focused on a topic that is relevant to the field of public health;
• identify and apply the appropriate theoretical and methodological framework to answer the scientific question posed in the thesis work;
• independently and in cooperation with supervisors, organize and conduct, within given time frames, the degree work and present the findings both in writing and orally;
• discuss and clearly motivate the rationale underlying a research process and conclusions derived from the study;
• critically review a scientific work, present both its strengths and weaknesses, as well as make suggestions for improvement;

Judgement and approach
• independently and systematically evaluate and analyze empirical material in order to achieve sufficient validity and reliability in results and conclusions;
• reflect over and appraise relevant scientific, ethical and sustainability aspects of research and development work, including human responsibility of its use in different settings in a globalized world.

The course is sustainability-related, which means that at least one of the learning outcomes clearly shows that the course content meets at least one of the University of Gothenburg's confirmed sustainability criteria.

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Course content

The focus of the course is a thesis project where the student with guidance from the supervisor/s conducts a scientific study of a selected topic that is of relevance to the academic discipline of global health. The course will give the student an opportunity to specialize and broaden within the main field and hereby practice on searching for, critically review and compile research information including research in global health. The student is to formulate a research question and complete a study based on collected primary and secondary data, alternatively a meta-analysis or a systematic literature review and present the results in the form of a thesis.

Each student, for their individual thesis project, formulates aim and research questions, completes a study based on collected primary and/or secondary data, alternatively a meta-analysis or a systematic literature review and presents the results orally and in writing, in the form of a research article/thesis.

In addition to specializing on a specific topic the thesis work provides the student with the opportunity to integrate, analyse and assess knowledge (methodological, generic academic and theoretical) attained in previous courses. Students shall thus demonstrate an understanding of the main field of study, of specialised knowledge in the specific area and insight into current research and development work. In other words, students should, at the end of this course, demonstrate an ability to plan, carry out and present an in-depth study of a specific topic as well as demonstrate how it is anchored in the broader global health academic discipline.

Form of teaching

The major part of the course consists of independent research conducted by the student with guidance from the supervisor/s. In addition, on campus introductory lectures, follow-up seminars and concluding examining seminars are part of the course. Data collection for the project can be carried out in Sweden or abroad.

Initially the student formulates a project plan, discusses it with the supervisor/s and applies for approval by the course director/s. The course facilitates for students peer review of midway reports. The course ends with final examining seminars where each student presents their thesis work in writing and orally to an opponent, examiner and fellow students. In addition to conducting and presenting an independent study, the student is to review and give feedback, orally and in writing, to a student colleagues’ work.

Before the student submit the thesis for the final seminar it is recommended that the academic supervisor is consulted to provide their opinion to the course director/s concerning whether the thesis is of sufficient academic quality to be evaluated by a thesis
examiner. After the final seminar, the examiner will report grades and necessary revisions to the student. The revised thesis is sent to the course coordinator, who assesses whether the changes have been adequately addressed. When this is the case, the thesis is sent to the examiner for re-assessment. The examiner then approves the thesis or requests further changes.

Language of instruction: English
Data collection can be done in a language other than English, but all assignments, including the thesis itself, will be presented in English.

Assessment
The course is examined on the basis of,
- a written study plan of the thesis,
- a student presentation in writing of an individually thesis work corresponding to the national requirements for a master's degree,
- an oral presentation of the written thesis
- a critical review and oral opposition on a fellow student’s thesis project at the final presentation seminar,
- participation at other presentation seminars.

If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course was given.

Grades
The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). In order to earn a Pass (G), the student must pass the written study plan of the thesis, presentation in writing of an individually thesis work corresponding to the national requirements for a master's degree, an oral presentation of the written thesis, a critical review and oral opposition on a fellow student’s thesis project at the final presentation seminar, participation at other presentation seminars.

In order to achieve a Pass with Distinction (VG), the student must pass all the examinations and earn Pass with Distinction (VG) on the student presentation in
writing of an individually thesis work corresponding to the national requirements for a master's degree.

**Course evaluation**
The result and possible changes in the course structure are communicated to both students who completed the evaluation and to the students who start the course.

Course evaluation takes place in written format and orally in dialogue with the students and course coordinator. The course coordinator compiles the analysis of course evaluation and provides suggestions for development of the course. Analysis and suggestions are shared with the students.