



## INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

### **MPH211 Public health science: foundations and applications, 15 credits**

Folkhälsovetenskapens utgångspunkter och tillämpningsområden, 15  
högskolepoäng  
*Second Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Institute of Medicine on 2019-03-18 and was last revised on 2023-06-26 to be valid from 2023-08-28, autumn semester of 2023.

*Field of education:* Medicine 100%

*Department:* Institute of Medicine

#### **Position in the educational system**

The course is a part of Master's Programme in Public Health. The course can be offered as an eligible course on advanced level.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Master's Programme in Public Health Science (M2PHP)

*Main field of studies*

Public Health Sciences

*Specialization*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

#### **Entry requirements**

Qualification for admission to the course requires professional degree/Bachelor's degree of at least 180 credits in a health science, social science, science, economics, arts or engineering field of education and grade Passed/E in English B/English 6

#### **Learning outcomes**

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

*Knowledge and understanding*

- describe fundamental concepts, theories and models within the field of public health science that are used to explain processes leading to inequality in health
- discuss the practical implications of public health science and the role of different public health stakeholders from international to local levels
- identify essential ethical norms of relevance to public health science and their relationship to human rights

*Competence and skills*

- apply established norms and standards for scientific quality and ethics in the evaluation and summary of, as well as reference to public health literature

*Judgement and approach*

- based on principals of ethics and human rights, identify and discuss challenges and dilemmas in responding to health inequality and health inequity

The course is sustainability-focused, 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. The content also constitutes the course's main focus.

**Course content**

From the starting point of health as a basic human right, the overall aim of the course is to provide an introduction to fundamental concepts, theories and models within public health science. The course provides an introduction to how formal (e.g. welfare systems, human rights, legislation...) and informal (e.g. gender, social position, ethnicity...) social structures and processes interact and affect health inequalities as well as health from a life course perspective. Further ethical challenges and dilemmas within public health as well as the practical implications of public health theories and models are discussed and problematized. In addition to this, the course will address ethical considerations, norms and guidelines and why these are essential to the quality and implementation of public health research. This includes active work to avoid plagiarism which means that the student with own words and sentences correctly refer to other researchers' ideas, texts/articles and results. The course is linked to the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) 10 (reduced inequality) and 5 (gender equality).

**Form of teaching**

The course adopts a mix of lectures, seminars, discussions and group activities/work.

*Language of instruction:* English

Lectures, seminars and course materials are in English

### **Assessment**

The course will be examined through:

- One individual written examination
- One individual written assignments
- Active participation in the elaboration of a written group assignment

*Three compulsory elements consisting of:*

- Active participation in one group-work presented orally at a seminar
- Active participation in two seminars of which one seminar consists in practical exercises and another seminar consists in attendance to orally presented group-works

Absence from and/or lack of contribution to the elaboration of the written group-assignment will be replaced by a written assignment. Absence from compulsory elements and/or lack of contribution to the work process, discussion or presentation, is replaced by oral presentations according to the instructions from the course leader.

A student who has taken two exams in a course or part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner. The student needs to contact the department for a new examiner, preferably in writing, and this should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for special educational support, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, the examiner may decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, but no more than two years, after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to placements and professional placements (VFU), although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

**Grades**

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). For the grade Pass (G) the student must have achieved a Pass (G) on the written individual exam, the individual written assignment, the active elaboration of a written group assignment and all compulsory elements.

For the grade Pass with distinction (VG) the student must have achieved a VG on the written individual exam and the grade Pass (G) on the individual written assignment, the active elaboration of a written group assignment, and compulsory elements in the course.

**Course evaluation**

The course evaluation is carried out in writing and orally with the students. The course leader is responsible for analyzing the evaluations and giving propositions for improvement. The analysis and propositions of development is shared with the students through the program council and the learning platform. The result and potential changes should be shared to both the students who carried out the evaluation and the students that are about to start the course.

**Additional information**

The course requires access to a computer and internet.