

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Research methodology**  
**Forskningsmetodik**

**7.5 Higher Education  
Credits**  
**7.5 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	PH02A1
<b>Valid from:</b>	Autumn 2023
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2022-04-26
<b>Changed:</b>	2023-05-30
<b>Department</b>	Department of Public Health Sciences
<b>Main field:</b>	Public Health
<b>Specialisation:</b>	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 course aims to provide the student with knowledge and experience of research methodology in public health sciences. The course includes: basic overview of ontology and epistemology relevant to the public health sciences; the use of explanatory models and theories in public health science; the use of the concept of causality in the public health sciences; ethical issues in public health sciences and in public health research; and an overview of some common study designs in public health science and how these relate to different types of research questions. The course also includes practical computer exercises with appropriate software.

## Learning outcomes

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

### *Knowledge and understanding*

1. Demonstrate basic understanding of the relationship between ontology and epistemology.
2. Demonstrate basic knowledge of the role of explanatory models in public health research.
3. Describe some of the most common types of research designs in public health research.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the relationships between research designs and the research questions they address.
5. Demonstrate a general understanding of the use of the concept of causality in public health.
6. Demonstrate a general understanding of the use of the concept of risk in public health science.
7. Demonstrate an overall understanding of data collection in terms of conceptualization, operationalization, bias and measurement error.
8. Demonstrate a basic understanding of how different aspects of time are important in public health.

### *Skills and abilities*

9. Interpret simple relationships between exposure and outcome using appropriate software.

### *Evaluation and approach*

10. Describe some significant ethical challenges in public health science and in public health research.

### **Education**

The teaching will be based on lectures, seminars, and computer exercises.

Active participation in 2/3 of the seminars is mandatory. In case of absence from, or insufficient participation, in a seminar, the student will be given a compensatory assignment.

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 objectives 1-8, and 10 are examined through a take-home exam. Grading is based on an objective-related seven-point scale (A-F).

#### *Other grading elements*

Learning outcome 9 is examined with an assignment. Grading is based on a two-grade scale (U=Fail, G=Pass).

#### *Course requirements*

The course includes an oral presentation at a seminar. Absence or inadequate participation at the seminar is compensated by a replacement assignment.

#### *Language*

The examination will be in English.

#### *Certificate of special pedagogical support*

For students who have a certificate from Stockholm University with a recommendation for special educational support, the examiner can decide to customize the teaching, give a customized test or let the student complete the test in an alternative way.

b) Course grade

The course grade will be given as follows:

A = Excellent  
B = Very good  
C = Good  
D = Adequate  
E = Sufficient

#### *Fail grades*

Fx = Inadequate  
F = Wholly inadequate

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 passing grades for Examination I and the other grading components, as well as have fulfilled the mandatory assignments and completed attendance of seminars.

If there are special reasons, the examiner may, after consultation with the responsible teacher, grant the student exemption from the obligation to participate in certain mandatory teaching or completion of mandatory parts. The student can then be assigned a compensation assignment.

#### e) Examinations

For each time the course is taught, at least three examinations must normally be offered within one year. In a year when the course is not taught, at least one examination must be offered.

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.

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 supplement the grade Fx up to a passing grade if the student is close to the limit for passing.

In case of approved completion of minor formal errors, or of a single part of the examination, the grade A-E is used.

In the case of approved completion of general deficiencies of a comprehension nature, the grade E is used.

If the completion of the grade Fx is assessed as failed, the grade F is used.

##### *Other grade-based elements*

Possibility to supplement U to G for the assignment is allowed if the student is close to passing.

#### g) Late submission

Late submission can be accepted if special circumstances apply.

#### **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](http://www.su.se/publichealth/PH02A1)), at least two months before the course begins.