Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Master's Programmes Board on 2019-05-15 to be valid from 2019-05-16, spring semester 2020.

General Information

Compulsory course in master's programme in public health

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Public Health Science

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

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

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

- Explain the theory of science underpinning qualitative methodology and discuss the characteristics of a qualitative research process
- Discuss key concepts and procedures for different qualitative research methods relevant to public health
- Describe how different methods for collecting qualitative data relate to different research questions
- Account for the basic principles and procedures in qualitative data analysis
- Describe how one assesses the credibility of qualitative research findings

Competence and skills

- Independently identify and justify the choice of relevant qualitative methods for data collection in relation to the research question
- Design an interview guide, carry out a qualitative interview/focus group, carry out a simple editing process of qualitative data and present qualitative research
results

- Critically review questions in regards to the credibility of qualitative research findings and conclusions
- Evaluate the content of scientific qualitative studies.

Judgement and approach

- Reflect on ethical issues in connection to qualitative research
- Reflect on the possibilities and limitations of the qualitative research methodology

Course content

The course offers an overview of the diversity of qualitative research methods both in terms of traditions and concepts. Emphasis is placed on how theory of science underpins both starting points and strategies that different types of qualitative research methods have in common and demonstrates basic differences in relation to quantitative research methods. Furthermore, the course covers the design of a qualitative study (problem formulation, sampling principles, data collection and analysis). Methods to generate qualitative data are presented and discussed. A description is given by the different steps and technologies applied in qualitative research with a special focus on Grounded Theory and Qualitative Content Analysis. Different approaches in relation to the concept of credibility within qualitative research are discussed. The students are given supervision for conducting interviews and/or focus groups and for processing/encoding qualitative data. The course also contains student-led seminars where a critical review of scientific qualitative articles are carried out.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars and group exercises. The seminars and group work are compulsory components of the course.

Assessment

The assessment is based on three components: Individual written examination 3 credits; Individual written assignment 3 credits; Course portfolio consisting of active participation in group work, seminars and oral presentation of own work 1.5 credits. If there are specific reasons, other forms of assessment may be applied.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

This is a translation of the course syllabus approved in Swedish.
Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.
To pass the entire course, all components have to be passed. For Pass with distinction in the whole course, Pass with distinction on the individual written examination and on the individual written assignment and the grade Pass on the course portfolio is required.

**Entry requirements**

To be admitted to the course, students must have a Bachelor's degree or the equivalent. Specific entry requirement: English B from Swedish upper secondary school or the equivalent.
Subcourses in MPH24, Qualitative Methods

Applies from V20

2001  Individual Written Assignment, 3.0 hp
      Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
2002  Individual Written Examination, 3.0 hp
      Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
2003  Course Portfolio, 1.5 hp
      Grading scale: Fail, Pass

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