Faculty of Medicine

VMFP13, Health Systems in a Global Perspective: Methods and Applications, 7.5 credits

Hälso- och sjukvårdssystem i ett globalt perspektiv: metoder och tillämpningar, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Master's Programmes Board on 2024-12-04. The syllabus comes into effect 2024-12-04 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

General information

The course is organised into five 'modules', each addressing a particular area of healthcare systems. The organisation into modules allows us to describe the course content clearly and to ensure that competent teaching and learning resources are available for the different parts. All teaching is provided remotely and consists of lectures, seminars and group sessions. Students work continuously to analyse a country's health system, which they will present at the end of the course.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study	*Specialisation*
Public Health Science	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Occupational Therapy	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Nursing	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Speech and Language Pathology	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Reproductive, Perinatal and Sexual Health	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Physiotherapy	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

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

Learning outcomes

The aim of the course is to provide students with a basic understanding of how health systems can be described, analysed and evaluated in terms of their performance in terms of access to and financing of health care in different types of countries. The course puts a special focus on different methods of applied analysis of health care systems of relevance both for students with a health care orientation and for students with a broader social science perspective.

Knowledge and understanding

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to:

- describe the main types of health systems and their characteristics, focusing on differences between low-, middle- and high-income countries,
- describe differences in conditions, structure and performance between different countries' health systems,
- explain the reasons for differences between various countries' healthcare systems.

Competence and skills

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to:

- apply models and frameworks to describe, analyse and compare health systems across countries
- identify, compile and analyse relevant data that describes different types of healthcare systems
- give examples of appropriate methods to evaluate the effects of healthcare reforms
- suggest appropriate alternatives to healthcare reforms adapted to the contexts of different countries
- identify and discuss potential conflicts between efficiency and equity in resource allocation for health systems in different groups of countries,
- communicate their own insights into health systems analysis and constructively criticise the analyses of others.

Judgement and approach

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

- constructively reflect on different actors' roles in healthcare from a global perspective
- evaluate different ethical perspectives when analysing and discussing policies in the field, reflect on opportunities and challenges in global health with a focus on healthcare systems

Course content

The course consists of five parts (modules):

1. Introduction: Introduction to modelling frameworks for health systems analysis. Reading of course literature and active participation in lectures and seminars. Initiate planning of coursework.
2. Data for health systems analysis: Practical exercises in data analysis for health systems analysis. Develop a study plan for the thesis.
3. Health systems financing: Applied health financing analysis using country data. Collection of data for analysis in the paper.
4. Health systems performance assessment: Applied health systems analysis using frameworks. Produce a draft of the assignment.
5. Presentation of course paper (assignment): Presentation of course assignment (course paper and presentation) and critically review and discuss fellow students' papers and presentations.

Course design

The course is conducted remotely (synchronously) and consists of lectures by teachers and guest lecturers, seminars and practical exercises. Meetings are scheduled for a fixed daily time of two hours. The course places a strong emphasis on active student participation, with students being given questions and tasks to ensure such participation. An important element is that each meeting begins with a student giving an account of the previous lecture and an opportunity for other questions and reflections.

The final presentation of the written assignment (course paper) is mandatory.

Assessment

The course is examined through two assessed components:

- Presentation, 2.5 credits
- Written assignment, 5 credits

The course is assessed through students presenting their course paper and submitting a completed paper. The paper will be submitted after the presentation seminar to allow time to take into account any comments and suggestions from other course participants and teachers. The assessments are also an important learning experience in themselves.

Students who do not attend the presentation are asked to submit an extra assignment to obtain a Pass grade for the course. The extra assignment corresponds to active participation in the presentation seminar and consists of a two-page constructive critique of another student's course paper.

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.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass

A pass grade for the course requires a pass in the presentation test (2.5 credits) and a pass in the written assignment (5 credits).

Entry requirements

Bachelor's degree in public health, medicine, health sciences or social sciences or an equivalent discipline.