



FACULTY OF MEDICINE

COURSE SYLLABUS Reg.no U 2020/471

Approved by FUN 12 February 2020, valid from 2020-02-12

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Research Studies Board, FUN

Health and Environment with Special Focus on Climate Change and Sustainability, MEHMKH1

7.5 credits

Third cycle

General information

The course provides students with an introduction to the impact of external environmental factors on people's health, focusing especially on the climate, and how climate change can affect the environmental conditions with regard to their impact on health. The course is primarily intended for doctoral students with an interest in the links between environment, health and climate. Another target group is other doctoral students at Lund University. The course is broad in appeal and has no requirements with regard to prior knowledge.

Language of instruction

English.

Aim

The aim of the course is to provide participants with an understanding of how the environment affects people's health in various ways. This includes links between health, climate and extreme weather events as well as other aspects of the environment. Furthermore, the course addresses how changed climate conditions may affect these links, and how health is an important reason for climate change mitigation and adaptation to new conditions in order to reduce this impact on health.

Learning outcomes

For a Pass on the course, the participants shall be able to

- identify conflicting aims between climate adaptation and other societal interests, and to argue for and against these with regard to different aspects
- explain how different environmental factors affect people's health and participate in discussions on this based on scientific evidence
- analyse how climate change may affect the links between environment and health based on the current state of scientific knowledge
- apply knowledge about the environment, climate and health within their own research area

Course content

The course consists of the following components:

- 1) Introduction to environmental medicine and environmental epidemiology
- 2) Climatology, climate modelling and climate change

Specialisations within different topics focusing on health aspects, environment and climate

Warm and cold

Air

Water

Built environments

Lifestyle, profession, food and diet

Lectures will address specialised topics as well as the overall aim of the course.

Course design

The course is taught full-time for 5 weeks and starts with introductory lectures intended to provide participants with good conditions to engage in specialised study of health aspects and the environment. Throughout the course, lectures are held and individual tasks and group exercises assigned within different topics. The specialised project, which is to be conducted throughout the course, is introduced early on. This is an individual assignment but time will be set aside for feedback on the project idea and the project from other participants and from teaching staff. Articles and other digital study resources will be distributed at the start and throughout the course. The specialised projects are to be presented during the final week. For each project a critical reviewer is to be appointed to lead a discussion about it.

Assessment

The assessment is based on the specialised project. For a grade of Pass, the student must have passed the specialised project and participated actively in all of the exercises and group work of the course.

Grades

The grades awarded are Pass or Fail.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must be admitted to research studies at Lund University. No other specific entry requirements apply.

Reading list

Articles and digital study resources that will be distributed at the start and throughout the course.