

Migration, Health and Biopolitics

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7.5 credits

Single subject course

742A42

Valid from: 2025 Autumn semester

Determined by	Main field of study	
The Quality Board at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences	Ethnic and Migration Studies	
Date determined	Course level	Progressive specialisation
2016-12-15	Second cycle	A1N
Revised by	Disciplinary domain	
Chairman of the Course and Programme Syllabus Board at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences	Social sciences	
Revision date	Subject group	
2025-08-12	Other Subjects within Social Science	
Offered first time	Offered for the last time	
Autumn semester 2017		
Department	Replaced by	
Institutionen för kultur och samhälle		

Entry requirements

- A bachelor's degree equivalent to a Swedish Kandidatexamen in the humanities, fine arts, social sciences, behavioural sciences, health sciences or natural sciences or equivalent qualifications are required
- English corresponding to the level of English in Swedish upper secondary education (Engelska 6 or Engelska nivå 2)
Exemption from Swedish

Intended learning outcomes

After completion of the course, the students should on an advanced level be able to:

- critically account for relations between migration, health and biopolitics
- analyse health policy and health practices, in addition to narratives concerning health and wellbeing, in relation to theories of nation, ethnicity and race
- critically account for the views of human nature and society that have informed population control, racial biology, colonial psychiatry and postmodern genetics

Course content

In this course, questions of health are addressed with reference to intersectional theories of migration, ethnicity and racism. A basic assumption of the course is that bodies, emotions and personal relationships are shaped by experiences of migration, ethnic identity and racialising social structures, and students examine the ways in which such influences find expression on the individual, group, and social level.

Included in the course are critical perspectives on global and national health policy, with particular focus on connections between health issues and biopolitics. Examined in the course are examples of population control, the history of racial biology, postmodern genetics, colonial psychiatry in addition to migration and trauma. The course also includes institutional perspectives, with particular focus on the connections between health care systems and migration regimes, as well as connections between sociocultural and (bio)medical perspectives.

Teaching and working methods

The course includes lectures, seminars, group assignments and individual assignments. Students are also expected to engage in self-study.

Examination

The course is examined by:

- oral presentation in groups, grading scale: EC (pass/fail)
- individual written assignment, grading scale: EC

A final grade of Pass (E) requires at least Pass (E) or participation (P) in all examinations. A higher grade is based on the individual written assignment.

Detailed information can be found in the study guide.

If special circumstances prevail, and if it is possible with consideration of the nature of the compulsory component, the examiner may decide to replace the compulsory component with another equivalent component.

If the LiU coordinator for students with disabilities has granted a student the right to an adapted examination for a written examination in an examination hall, the student has the right to it.

If the coordinator has recommended for the student an adapted examination or alternative form of examination, the examiner may grant this if the examiner assesses that it is possible, based on consideration of the course objectives.

An examiner may also decide that an adapted examination or alternative form of examination if the examiner assessed that special circumstances prevail, and the examiner assesses that it is possible while maintaining the objectives of the course.

Students failing an exam covering either the entire course or part of the course twice are entitled to have a new examiner appointed for the reexamination.

Students who have passed an examination may not retake it in order to improve their grades.

Grades

ECTS, EC

Other information

Planning and implementation of a course must take its starting point in the wording of the syllabus. The course evaluation included in each course must therefore take up the question how well the course agrees with the syllabus.

The course is conducted in such a way that there are equal opportunities with regard to sex, transgender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation and age.

If special circumstances prevail, the vice-chancellor may in a special decision specify the preconditions for temporary deviations from this course syllabus, and delegate the right to take such decisions.

About teaching and examination language

The teaching language is presented in the Overview tab for each course. The examination language relates to the teaching language as follows:

- If teaching language is “Swedish”, the course as a whole could be given in Swedish, or partly, or as a whole, in English. Examination language is Swedish, but parts of the examination can be in English.
- If teaching language is “English”, the course as a whole is taught in English. Examination language is English.
- If teaching language is “Swedish/English”, the course as a whole will be taught in English if students without prior knowledge of the Swedish language participate. Examination language is Swedish or English depending on teaching language.