

TP3302 – Health for sustainable communities

Credits: 5

Level: Bachelor

Teaching: Autumn

Examination: Autumn

Teaching language: English

Course content

The link between health and economic growth and has long been established. The role that health plays, however, in achieving sustainable communities is often overlooked in contexts involving broader environmental, social and economic sustainability measures.

The course aims to illustrate why health represents a cornerstone for sustainable communities and their growth. It focuses on the importance of evaluating health-related impacts and seeks to promote the role of health in an interdisciplinary context.

While traditionally the responsibility of the health sector, this course highlights that symptom-managing health systems are often far from sustainable. Rather, healthy and sustainable communities requires decentralised cooperation where all sectors feel empowered to actively support health and equality in the name of a more sustainable future.

The course can be included as an optional course in UiO's study offer, the Sustainability Certificate. It is suitable for program students in UiO's bachelor's program and five- and six-year integrated study programs.

Learning outcome

The student will learn about current challenges for health sustainability and health equity, and opportunities in the form of goals and solutions that have been utilized in this field. They will also learn how international and local policies shape health sustainability and why health equity and pollution from the health sector are things we need to be concerned about.

The assignments will prompt the student to identify overlap between local health and sustainability challenges and explore possible policy-related solutions related to their own field of work or study. The student will develop the ability to discuss the health

impact of sustainability policies, gain insight into the short- and long-term benefits of decentralised preventive approaches to health care, and understand how health advocacy can be incorporated into the development of wider sustainability agendas.

Additional learning outcomes will include a general understanding of health sustainability within the context of global sustainable growth, and an appreciation of current health goals and efforts that contribute to creating a sustainable future.

Admission

If you would like to take this course, you must apply and obtain a place in classes and register for exams in Studentweb.

If you do not already have a place at UiO, you can apply for admission to our study programs, or apply to become a single-subject student.

The course can be included in a course group of 20 credits belonging to the Sustainability Certificate study program.

Teaching

The course will consist of five seminars (3x three-hour, 2x two-hour) and a field trip. Attendance is expected, and students must attend a minimum of 60% of the course in person (i.e., the seminars/field trip) in order to take the final exam.

The field trip will be to a local medical waste facility. The aim is to highlight current efforts being made to improve the carbon footprint of the health sector.

There will also be 2 video modules, and each seminar will be linked to mandatory reading of the syllabus.

Over 6 weeks, the seminars will cover:

- Introduction: The role of health in sustainable growth
- Current global challenges for health equity and sustainability
- Sustainability challenges linked to increased health spending
- Preventive action for sustainable health: approaches and goals
- Developing successful policies for sustainable health
- Today's efforts in health sustainability and assignment presentations

There will also be a voluntary seminar to discuss the exam and any remaining questions from the course.

Work requirements

Two work requirements must be completed in addition to an exam.

1. Online quizzes: Consists of 7 multiple-choice questions each week.
2. Homework policy assignment: The student will complete an assignment throughout the course in three phases. The assignment is expected to reflect how one identifies and argues for measures within health sustainability in practical situations and throughout working life. Part of the assignment will involve developing a poster that will be presented in the final seminar as part of a short presentation discussing current initiatives relevant to health sustainability.

Examination

The exam consists of 50 multiple-choice questions.

Exam aids

No aids are allowed.

Language of examination

You can answer the exam in English.

Grading scale

The course uses a pass/fail grading scale.

Resit an examination

The retake exam/postponed exam can be held in writing or orally. Notice of the exam format will be given well in advance of the exam.