

# Understanding Social Inequalities and Social Problems in Health

## Facilitators

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## Description

Public health research and practice continue to be challenged by people's unequal chances of living full and healthy lives and by other social problems, like communication problems, that negatively affect people's health and healthcare, or public health efforts. Key social sciences concepts, including social status, social interactions and capital, can help elucidate various public health problems from the social determinants of health to health care team and health-provider/patient communication. In this course, we examine these concepts, drawing on founding texts from the social sciences and seeing how they have been applied in the fields of public health and health services.

## Objectives

- Understand the origin and meaning of the concepts of social status, social interactions and capital
- Evaluate their application in the study of health and health services.
- Develop applications for original public health research

## Dates

**20 - 22 April 2026**

## Eligibility

SSPH+ PhD students, other students and external participants (subject to availability)

## Course Structure

Presentations, guided discussions, group work and group presentations

## Assessment

Preparatory work, active participation during course days, and group presentations

## Credits

**1 ECTS**

Preparation Work: 10h, Contact: 18h

(1 ECTS corresponds to appr. 25-30 hours' workload)

## Location

University of Fribourg, room tbd

## Course Fees

	<b>1 ECTS</b>
SSPH+ IGC PhD and MD Students	30 CHF
Postdocs from SSPH+ partner institutes	30 CHF
External PhD students, external MD Students and Swiss Public Health Doctors in training	300 CHF
Others	800 CHF

## Registration

<https://www.conftool.com/ssph-phd-courses2026/>

## Deadline for Registration

22 March 2026