MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year	2026-27
Module Code	PHM105
Module Title	Issues in Public Health
Module Organiser(s)	Mark Taylor
Contact email	For students studying University of London awards (initial registration 2025/2026 and prior years): Enquiries may be made via their Student Advice Centre at: Student Advice Centre. For students studying LSHTM awards (registration in 2026/2027 and onwards): Enquiries should be emailed to: PHsupport@lshtm.ac.uk
Faculty	Public Health & Policy
FHEQ Level	Level 7
Credit Value	**CATS:** 10 **ECTS:** 5
Mode of Delivery	Distance Learning
Mode of Study	Directed self-study, through online materials (Virtual Learning Environment)
Language of Study	English
Pre-Requisites	None
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None
Module Cap (Maximum number of students)	None
Target Audience	This module is available to students registered for the Distance Learning MSc / PGDip and PGCert Public Health programmes. For students who first registered for the MSc Public Health (UoL) prior to 2026/27 the module is compulsory for those studying the General stream and recommended for students studying the Environment and Health stream. Alternatively, it can also be taken as an individual module.
Module Description	This module provides students with an introduction to the basic concepts and methods used in public health to help them to understand and interpret current influences on

	public health globally. The module covers key frameworks that are used to address public health challenges.
Duration	Studies for distance learning modules begin in early October. At this time, module materials will be made available on Moodle once fees have been paid. Students may start their studies at any time from the beginning of October and work through the material until the start of the June assessments. However, students are encouraged to commence their studies in October and work steadily through the materials over the course of the academic year and must adhere to other assessment submission deadlines.
Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	May 2026

For students studying UoL awards (initial registration in 2025/2026 and prior years)

Programme(s) This module is linked to the following programme(s)	**Status**
PGCert and PGDip Public Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
MSc Public Health (General Stream) (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Compulsory
MSc Public Health: Environment and Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Recommended Elective
MSc Public Health: Health Promotion (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
MSc Public Health: Health Services Management (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
MSc Public Health: Health Economics (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective

For students studying LSHTM awards (registration in 2026/2027 and onwards)

Programme(s) This module is linked to the following programme(s)	**Status**
PGCert Public Health (Distance Learning)	Elective
PGDip Public Health (Distance Learning)	Elective
MSc Public Health (Distance Learning)	Elective

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module
The overall module aim is to: • Improve students' ability to answer the question "What is public health?" and utilise fundamental concepts, principles, and practices related to public health.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the module a student should be able to: 1. Explain the philosophy underpinning public health action, how it has evolved and how to apply it to health policies. 2. Interpret and evaluate work that applies key public health approaches, including describing patterns of health in populations, assessing disease burden, and assessing health impacts of policies in other sectors. 3. Apply specific knowledge and recommend where improvements could be made to influential issues in global and public health, like tobacco use, obesity, climate change, conflicts and the changing nature of infectious diseases. 4. Explain and give examples of health inequities and their origins as well as apply measures to reduce them. 5. Communicate about major threats to health and their distribution within populations, using examples from high, middle and low-income countries.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content
The module is expected to cover the following topics: • Basic understanding of the history and evolution of public health; • Approaches to measure health in populations (e.g. summary measures of public health, mortality data); • An overview of issues threatening public health today, with examples from low, middle- and high-income countries; • The relationship between individual and societal responses to public health, illustrated across several topic areas; • Understanding of the causes of health inequities and the potential pathways to reducing them.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Directed self-study	70	70
Self-directed learning	0	0
Assessment, review and revision	30	30
Total	**100**	**100**

Teaching and Learning Strategy
Learning is via directed self-study. A guide to studying the module is provided, together with access to a range of study resources, discussion forums and online webinar discussion sessions. The textbook that supports this module provides a detailed set of learning objectives at the start of each chapter and also offers focused reading and various learning

Teaching and Learning Strategy
activities. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the module-specific discussions and online webinar discussion sessions to obtain tutor support, and to make use of the LSHTM on-line library resources. Tutors provide written feedback for all students through the online discussion forum and offer individual feedback on a formative (non-assessed) assignment submitted by the student. Written feedback is provided on submitted assignments.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy
A formative assessment (FA) is offered to encourage students to test their new knowledge and receive individual feedback. The formative assessment is optional and will not count towards a student's final grade. The FA deadline is 31 March. The summative assessment of this module is by a time-limited assessment (100%).

Summative assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Time-limited assessment	TBC	100	All

Time-limited assessments for DL modules are held once a year, usually in June (including resits), and will be held online for 2026-27.

For students studying UoL awards (initial registration in 2025/2026 and prior years)
Assessments are held in accordance with University of London's annual guidance.

For students studying LSHTM awards (registration in 2026/2027 and onwards)

Assessments are held in accordance with Chapter 8b of the LSHTM Academic Manual.

Resitting assessment
Resits will accord with Chapter 8b of the LSHTM Academic Manual. The Resit assessment will be the same assessment type as the first attempt (see previous table).

Resources

The following materials are provided to students after registration and fee payment for this module in October:

- A brief guide to studying the module;
- The textbook *Issues in Public Health: Challenges for the 21st Century* (third edition) edited by Martin McKee and Alison Krentel;
- A reading list, including details of both required and optional reading and links to selected papers;
- A list of useful websites;
- Module-specific discussion forums;
- Online webinar discussion sessions, to be run during the year at key points in the module;
- The LSHTM online library resources.

All materials are provided in e-format and may be accessed via the LSHTM VLE – Moodle.

Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

The module-specific site on Moodle provides students with access to the majority of the module learning materials, including a study guide and online reading list (detailing both essential and recommended readings), and additional resources including supplementary exercises, the option to listen to recordings of selected lectures taking place in London. In this module, materials provided include a textbook that is made available to students in e-format. All materials posted up on Moodle areas, including computer-based sessions, have been made accessible where possible. The LSHTM Moodle has been made accessible to the widest possible audience, using a VLE that allows for up to 300% zoom, permits navigation via keyboard and use of speech recognition software, and that allows listening through a screen reader. All students have access to "SensusAccess" software which allows conversion of files into alternative formats.

For students studying University of London awards (initial registration 2025/2026 and prior years): For students with special needs, reasonable adjustments and support can be arranged – details and how to request support can be found on the University of London Worldwide website at: Inclusive practice and Access arrangements | University of London

For students studying LSHTM awards (registration 2026/2027 and onwards): For students who require learning or assessment adjustments and support this can be arranged through the Student Support Services – details and how to request support can be found on the LSHTM Disability Support pages.