Communication, health and aging. 7.5 ECTS credit points

COURSE OBJECTIVES
This course will introduce current knowledge about adult aging, including empirical findings and theories in relation to communication and health, spanning different disciplines, e.g. biology, psychology, sociology. The WHO ICF (World Health Organization, International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health) will be used as an overall framework for the course. After the course is completed the student will be able to:

- Identify trends in contemporary literature in how aging affects auditory and speech processing in healthy adults and explain how this knowledge can be applied
- Apply current theoretical perspectives on how auditory aging and cognitive aging interact in healthy adults and explain how such interactions can be characterized
- Identify trends in contemporary literature in age-related impairments in auditory and cognitive processing, how they interact, and explain how such interactions can be characterized
- Explain how social and health factors relate to communication for older people and how the role of these factors may be investigated
- Be able to plan a research study to investigate communication and aging with due regard to auditory, speech processing, cognitive, social and health factors

CONTENTS
Central topics that will be discussed in the course are auditory processing, speech processing, auditory cognition and how these functions are affected by aging. Social and health factors affecting communication in aging will also be addressed.

MODES OF TEACHING/WORKING FORMS
The course includes reading assignments and seminars. Students are expected to participate actively.

EXAMINATION
Examination involves writing a course paper describing a proposed research study to investigate communication and aging. The paper should state the proposed research question, describe the method to be employed and indicate predictions. It should also state how auditory, speech processing, cognitive, social and health factors are proposed to be taken into account.

Documented active participation throughout the course.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Registration as doctoral student or masters student. Students are expected to have basic knowledge about the auditory system.

GRADING
The grades are Approved and Not approved.
COURSE READINGS
The teachers decide on course readings. Required and recommended readings will be selected from specialized textbooks and will also include current papers from the primary literature.

COURSE EVALUATION
Course planning and teaching is based on the course description. Obligatory course evaluation will assess to what extent the course corresponds with the description.

Effective from autumn 2010  Approved by FUN 2010-08-27