

COURSE REPORT

Course code: INTH310B Course title: Introduction to global occupational health Elective course.	Semester: Spring	Department: Centre for International Health, Department of Global Public Health and Primary Care
Course coordinator: Bente E. Moen Date: 22 nd April 2026	Approved in: Started as INTH30A I 2012, was changed to INTH310B in 2019, but revised later, the last change was in 2024. Date: 2019ish	

INTRODUCTION

- Learning outcomes:

On completion of the course the student should have the following learning outcomes defined in terms of knowledge, skills and general competence:

<i>Knowledge</i>	<i>Skills</i>	<i>General competence</i>
<i>The students will be able to</i> - describe basic concepts in occupational health - recognize the most important risk factors for illness and injuries at work places, both nationally and globally - describe the major occupational diseases nationally and globally - explain the different steps in risk assessment at the workplace - describe the association between workplace exposure and health effects - describe the main steps in risk prevention on exposure to health hazards in the work environment	<i>The student shall be able to:</i> - conduct a primary risk evaluation of a work place - advice on how to prevent work-related injuries and diseases	<i>The student will be able to:</i> - understand and discuss the interaction between the actors within occupational health; employers, employees, health and safety personnel, occupational health services, occupational health clinics and the Labour Inspection - reflect on occupational health in a global perspective

History

This course was held as an in-person course in Bergen from 2012 to 2019. Afterwards, it was held online, using the MOOC: Occupational health in developing countries. Students had to complete this course and then take an online exam (2 hours, with 1 quiz of 50 questions and writing an essay/risk assessment of a workplace, shown in photographs). Here we had students from all over the world, many guest students. Administrative changes meant that we could no longer register exams for guest students, and the course was therefore re-established as an in-person course in Bergen in 2025. In the last two years, the course has been held with 4 weeks of physical presence in Bergen. The course leader has throughout been B.E. Moen, and important lecturers have been M. Bråtveit and B.E. Hollund, who retired in 2025. Moen will retire in 2026, and for now, there is no one to continue the course.

STATISTICS: FOR 2025 OG 2026, DA KURSET VAR HOLDT PÅ SAMME MÅTE DISSE TO ÅRENE

Number of students:28		Number of students completing the course:				
Grade distribution - >: Or ->:	A:8	B:15	C:4	D:1	E:	F:
	(Pass: 28)			Fail:		

SUMMARY OF THE STUDENT EVALUATION (*main points*):

The students answered a questionnaire after the course (before exam) both in 2025 and 2026, and here is a summary of answers from both years.

Practical implementation: They were pleased with the number of lectures daily, only 3 wished for less lectures and 2 wished more lectures. All, except 2, were very pleased with the reading papers group we had 2-3 times per week. Two persons did not like to read so many papers at home. The others did actually read, and it was quite successful.

All were very pleased with the visits in occupational health services, at the hospital, at the fire brigade station, and they all want more such excursions to workplaces and places where occupational health was demonstrated in practice.

A challenge the 2nd week was a collision between this course and a STATA course that the students needed to have to be allowed to enter a later course in Experimental Epidemiology. 5 students had to attend the STATA course 2 days, and missed the occupational health these days.

Students' evaluations and feedback: 100% reported that they learned a lot from this course, and that it was useful. They were pleased about learning about many topics and working situations. Very engaging, although the topics sometime were just shortly mentioned. Lectures were well prepared. The 360 videos were mentioned as extremely interesting and helped them to see new places they had never seen or heard about before.

They were grateful for the course, as this topic is taught very few places in the world.

Comments from teachers: The students were all extremely motivated, and it was a great pleasure to work with them. A short paper was written about our visit to one Occupational Health Service: Bedriftshelse 1, - to be read in Ramazzini 2026; 33:24-25.

COURSE COORDINATORS EVALUATION (INCL CHANGES/NEW ELEMENTS, EFFECT OF CHANGES):

Comments from teacher Moen: The students were all extremely motivated, and it was a great pleasure to work with them. As my normal helpers were retired, it was a bit challenging to run the course alone, but it was possible. In 2025, I had help from 2 lecturers from Tanzania, on Erasmus+ exchange, that was fantastic. Great with help from practitioners in the field, we had a visit from the Labour Inspectorate, and we visited several places outside the class room, and that was successful. The students need to see occupational health in practice. New was 360 degree videos from workplaces, which also was successful, helping to understand the working life.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT EVALUATION PERIOD – IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE:

My hope is that someone will continue this course some time in the future.