



Faculty of Social Sciences

PSPR14, Course 14: Master's Thesis, 30 credits

Kurs 14: Examensarbete för psykologexamen, 30 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by the board of the Department of Psychology on 2014-11-11 and was valid from 2015-08-31, autumn semester 2015.

General Information

The course is a compulsory component of semester 9 and 10 of the Master of Science programme in Psychology.

Some components may be in English.

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate specialised understanding of the scientific problems in the psychological research area addressed by their own empirical study

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to independently and critically review, summarise and assess the contents of research publications in psychology
- informed by independent and critical compilation of the contents in relevant research publications in psychology, demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate an issue of scientific relevance to the research area concerned
- based on a research issue in psychology, demonstrate specialised ability to select an adequate design and suitable examination methods
- demonstrate the ability, under supervision, to independently plan and execute an empirical research study based on a research issue in psychology
- demonstrate the ability to independently document an independent empirical study in a research report produced with the scientific approach and academic discourse practised within psychological research
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing to independently and critically review and communicate the contents of research in an academic context

This is a translation of the course
syllabus approved in Swedish

- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing to independently and critically review and communicate the contents of research in a way accessible to the general public

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate the ability to independently apply principles of research ethics
- demonstrate the ability to take into account the role of the researcher and the significance of the researcher's perspective for the implementation of research

Course content

The aim of the course is to enable the future psychologists to execute an empirical research study based on a psychological issue, applying the knowledge about the theory of science, research methodology and research ethics acquired in course 12 and previously on the programme. A further aim is to enable the future psychologists to develop their ability to communicate research by presenting the study in a degree project, participating in research seminars as author and critical reviewer, and making a popular science presentation of their own project.

The course is divided into three modules.

Module 14:1. Master's Thesis, 30 credits.

During the module, the future psychologist is to execute an empirical research study and document it in a Master's thesis in psychology. The project is to be executed individually or by two students in collaboration.

Prior to commencing on the project, the future psychologist must draw up a project plan and submit it for ethical review in accordance with the department's guidelines for ethical review of student assignments.

The teaching mainly consists of supervision of the project work. The module also includes teaching in academic writing and research ethics.

Module 14:2. Critical Review, 0 credits.

During the module, the future psychologist is to execute a critical review of a Master's degree project, orally at a thesis seminar and in a written report. The oral review can be executed individually or by two students in collaboration. The written review is to be executed individually.

The future psychologist must have passed course H to be permitted to execute a critical review. Furthermore, the future psychologist must first have attended five other thesis seminars.

The module includes teaching in the critical review of degree projects.

Module 14:3. Popular Science Presentation, 0 credits.

During the module, the future psychologists are to learn the principles of popular science presentations and to present the results of their own research in speech and writing. The teaching takes place in lessons and seminars.

Course design

The teaching mainly consists of supervision, individually or in groups. However, a number of compulsory lectures, seminars and group exercises are also included.

The other compulsory components consist of a project plan, participation in the student's own thesis seminar, participation in five thesis seminars of the student's choice (apart from the one in which the student is the reviewer), oral and written critical review, and the popular science presentation.

If the students are unable to participate in a compulsory component due to circumstances such as accidents or sudden illness, they will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or re-take the component. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative. If the student is absent from or fails their own defence seminar, the oral review and the oral popular science critical review, the re-examination may be postponed to the following semester.

Assessment

Module 14:1. Master's Thesis

The examination is in the form of a thesis seminar in which the future psychologist presents and defends his or her own degree project. A specially appointed examiner assesses the degree project and the defence of the degree project based on a number of assessment criteria established by the department.

The examiner assesses the thesis as 1) passed, 2) passed subject to certain revisions, or 3) failed. The degree project will be failed if the examiner find that additional supervision is required. A failed thesis must be presented at a new seminar.

The examiner also assesses the defence of the thesis at the seminar as passed or failed. For a Pass on the module, the student must have passed both the thesis and the defence.

The passed degree project is to be published electronically in an Open Access database belonging to Lund University. If there are weighty reasons, the student may submit an application for exemption from electronic publication to the head of department.

Module 14:2. Critical Review

The assessment is based on the future psychologist's critical review of a degree project in psychology at a thesis seminar. The examiner will assess the critical review as passed or failed based on a number of assessment criteria established by the department.

The assessment will also be based on an individual, written critical review submitted by the future psychologist.

Module 14:3. Popular Science Presentation

The assessment is based on the future psychologists' oral and written popular science presentation of their projects.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass.

The grades awarded are Pass or Fail. For a grade of Pass, the student must have attained the learning outcomes stated for the course.

At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must be admitted to the Master of Science programme in Psychology and meet the requirements for progression described in the current programme syllabus.

Subcourses in PSPR14, Course 14: Master's Thesis

Applies from H15

- 1401 Master Thesis, 30,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1402 Thesis Opponentship, 0,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1403 Popular Psychology Presentation, 0,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass