



Faculty of Social Sciences

PSYE28, Psychology: Evolutionary Psychology, 15 credits

Psychology: Evolutionary Psychology, 15 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Psychology on 2014-06-03 to be valid from 2014-09-01, autumn semester 2014.

General Information

The course is offered as a freestanding course and can be included in a Bachelor degree with psychology as the main field of study or in a programme in accordance with the programme syllabus.

Language of instruction: English

Students are exempted from the requirement of Swedish B from upper secondary school.

Main field of studies

Psychology

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to demonstrate

Knowledge and understanding

- knowledge of the basic principles of evolution
- understanding of the difference between ultimate and proximate explanations for behaviour
- knowledge of evolutionary explanations of cognition, including ideas such as modularity, and environment of evolutionary adaptedness (EEA)
- knowledge of evolutionary explanations for cooperation and altruism
- knowledge of how sexual selection can be used to predict subtle differences in partner selection, sexual behaviour, parental behaviour and other behaviour

associated with reproduction, and how cultural and proximate factors can also shape them

- knowledge of evolutionary explanations for personality and individual differences
- knowledge of evolutionary explanations for mental illness and mental health

Competence and skills

- the ability to compare and assess various theories of evolution in psychology
- the ability to discuss the interaction between evolution, cognition and culture
- the ability to communicate knowledge about evolutionary psychology to different audiences

Judgement and approach

- the ability to reflect on criticism of the use of evolution in psychology
- the ability to critically reflect on statements about evolution and psychology

Course content

The course aims to provide students with a thorough introduction to the ways in which evolution is used to illustrate different areas within psychology, such as similarities and differences between the sexes within, among other things, reproduction and parenthood, altruism and cooperation, individual differences, mental health and illness, as well as how evolution has formed cognition and its interaction with culture. The course also provides knowledge of how to empirically examine issues grounded in the principles of the theory of evolution.

The course comprises three modules:

Module 1. Reproduction – from choice of partner to child-rearing throughout life (5 credits).

This module introduces evolutionary psychology and focuses on the mechanisms surrounding sexual selection.

Module 2. Cognition, cooperation, culture and other consequences of natural selection (5 credits).

This module comprises cognition, individual differences, cooperation and culture from the perspective of evolutionary psychology.

Module 3. Theme project (5 credits).

The students carry out an empirical study based on evolutionary psychology. The work is carried out in groups and is presented in a written paper and an oral presentation.

Course design

Teaching is in the form of lectures, seminars and group exercises. Participation in the introduction, seminars, group assignments and presentation of group work is compulsory unless the student has valid reasons to be absent. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances such as accidents or sudden illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or re-take compulsory components. This also applies to students who have had to be absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

Assessment

The assessment is based on two written examinations, participation in seminars, a short paper and an oral presentation of the group work. Other opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course. Within a year of a major change or termination of the course, at least two further examination opportunities will be offered on the same course content. After that, students will be offered further examination opportunities but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

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

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

The grades awarded are A, B, C, D, E or Fail. The highest grade is A, and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail.

The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the student has shown unacceptable results.

For compulsory seminars and presentation of group work the grades Pass or Fail are awarded. For the grade of Pass the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of Fail the student has shown unacceptable results.

Grade for the entire course is determined by the grades of the individual subcourses and is based on an average of the included grades (where A = 5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, and E = 1). In order to receive a grade of Pass (at least E) on the entire course, students must receive a grade of at least E on all subcourses and the grade of Pass on all compulsory components.

Entry requirements

General and courses corresponding to the following Swedish Upper Secondary School Programs: Social Studies 1b/1a1 + 1a2

Subcourses in PSYE28, Psychology: Evolutionary Psychology

Applies from H14

- 1401 Reproduction & the Life Cycle, 5,0 hp
 Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1402 Seminars, Reproduction & the Life Cycle, 0,0 hp
 Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1403 Culture, Cognition, Individual Differences, 5,0 hp
 Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1404 Seminars, Culture, Cognition, Individual Differences, 0,0 hp
 Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1405 Theme Project, 5,0 hp
 Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1406 Seminars, Theme Project, 0,0 hp
 Grading scale: Fail, Pass