

## **KOMD01, Strategic Communication: An Introduction to Psychological Defence, 3 credits**

*Strategisk kommunikation: En introduktion till psykologiskt försvar, 3  
högskolepoäng*  
**First Cycle / Grundnivå**

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by Board of the Department of Communication on 2025-02-11 (STYR2025/528). The syllabus comes into effect 2025-02-17 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

### **General information**

The course is offered as a free-standing course. The course is given online.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of study*

*Specialisation*

Strategic  
Communication

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

### **Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course, the student shall

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- show basic knowledge of the concept of psychological defence, its history, and its core components, (1)
- show basic understanding of vulnerabilities and aspects of resilience in the domain of psychological defence, (2)
- show basic knowledge about countermeasures and methodologies for threat assessment in the domain of psychological defence, (3)

## Competence and skills

- demonstrate an ability to design a psychological defence strategy which includes a set of different countermeasures, appropriate to a specific context, (4)

## Judgement and approach

- demonstrate the ability to evaluate the respective strengths and weaknesses of psychological defence strategies when applied in different contexts, including ethical aspects, (5)

## Course content

This course introduces the concept of psychological defence through four core components: resilience building, threat intelligence, deterrence, and strategic communication.

The course includes a case study of an influence operation, giving students the opportunity to explore methods of analysis, threat assessment and countermeasures. Students will also get experience designing a strategy and evaluating countermeasures

## Course design

Teaching takes the form of pre-recorded lectures and seminars. Participation in seminars is compulsory, unless there are special reasons. Compensation or an alternative time for a compulsory module is offered to students who, through no fault of their own, for example accident, sudden illness or similar events, have been unable to complete the compulsory module. This also applies to students who have missed classes due to an elected position as a student representative.

## Assessment

- Individual project work (outcome 1-8), 3 credits

In connection with the course, students are offered three examinations, a regular examination, a re-examination, and one additional re-examination. Within one after the course, students are offered a minimum of two additional re-examinations. After that, more examinations are offered but following current course content.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

## Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

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 must have shown unacceptable results.

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**

General requirements and studies equivalent of courses English 6, Mathematics 2a or 2b or 2c and Social Studies 1b or 1a1+1a2 from Swedish Upper Secondary School.

## **Further information**

Oral and written proficiency in English equivalent to English 6/B (advanced) from Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. International qualifications will be assessed in accordance with national guidelines. International students are exempted from the general entry requirement of proficiency in Swedish.