



Faculty of Social Sciences

PSYF57, Psychology: Cognitive Neuroscience - Introduction to Brain Function, 10 credits

Psykologi: Kognitiv neurovetenskap - Introduktion till hjärnfunktion, 10 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Psychology on 2023-11-14. The syllabus comes into effect 2023-11-14 and is valid from the autumn semester 2024.

General information

The course is given as a freestanding course at the first cycle level and may be included in a Bachelor Degree in Psychology. The teaching is mainly in English.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study

Specialisation

Psychology

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

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- Show knowledge about the structure and function of the brain
- Describe the structure of the neurons and reflect on principles of neuronal communication and change
- Describe the development of the central nervous system and reflect on factors that can influence the development of and changes in the brain
- Reflect on principles behind methods that are used in cognitive neuroscience such as reaction time and performance measures, lesion and patient data and different brain imaging methods

- Reflect on basic brain functions such as sensory processing, perception, motor function and motivation

Competence and skills

- Evaluate scientific information in the course's fields of study
- Communicate knowledge within the course's field of study to different audiences

Judgement and approach

- Evaluate scientific information in the field of the course and use a critical approach to reflect on modern theories and research results in the area

Course content

The course provides students with basic knowledge of neuroanatomy, brain development and change, cellular function and communication, and basic brain functions, such as sensory processing, perception, motor function and motivation. The understanding of normal function is the primary focus of the course, but clinical examples will also be used, as they provide substantial illustrations of normal functioning. Furthermore, important methods to study cognitive functions and mental processes (e.g. response times, accuracy) and to study the activity of the brain and functional anatomy (e.g. lesion and patient data, brain imaging methods) are described.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, group exercises, demonstrations, laboratory sessions and seminars. Attendance at seminars is compulsory. Participation is compulsory unless there are valid reasons for not doing so. The opportunity to compensate for or resit compulsory components will be offered to students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances beyond their control such as accidents, sudden illness or similar. This also applies to students who have missed teaching sessions due to work as a student representative.

Assessment

The examination includes written examination and active participation in compulsory seminars. Three exam sessions are offered in connection with the course: a first examination, a resit and a catch-up exam. Within a year of the end of the course, at least two additional examination opportunities are offered on the same course content. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

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: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

The student's grade is assessed based on how well the student fulfils the learning outcomes of the course. Regarding the grade of Fail, the student has not fulfilled the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of Pass, the student must fulfil the learning outcomes specified for the course. For the grade of Pass with Distinction, the student must also fulfil the learning outcomes particularly well. The grades awarded for compulsory teaching components are Pass or Fail. For the grade of Pass, the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of Fail, the student has shown unacceptable results. To receive the grade of Pass for the whole course, at least the grade of Pass is required in all modules and components. To receive the grade of Pass with Distinction for the whole course, the grade of Pass with Distinction is required in a majority of the total credits for the course based on the modules/components that can apply the grades Fail/Pass/Pass with Distinction. At the start of the course, the students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and the grading scale, and how this is applied during the course.

Entry requirements

General requirements and studies equivalent of courses Social Studies 1b or 1a1+1a2 from Swedish Upper Secondary School.