

PSYK11, Psychology: Bachelor Course, 30 credits

Psykologi: Kandidatkurs, 30 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by the board of the Department of Psychology on 2013-11-12 and was last revised on 2014-03-11. . The revised syllabus applied from 2017-01-16. , spring semester 2017.

General Information

The course is a first cycle freestanding course and is compulsory for a Bachelor of Science specialising in Psychology or in a degree programme in accordance with the syllabus.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Some components may be taught in English.

Main field of studies

Psychology

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

G2E, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements, contains degree project for BA/BSc

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- understanding of the characteristic features of scientific studies in psychology and the role of psychological knowledge in society
- knowledge of different research designs used in psychology and how they address different issues and hypotheses
- knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of different research designs
- knowledge of reliability, internal and external validity and the threats to them, and how the method chosen can maximise the internal and external validity and reduce the likelihood of alternative explanations

- understanding of rules of research ethics of relevance to research in psychology
- understanding of the area of psychology addressed in the individual empirical study
- knowledge of important differences between theory of science perspectives
- knowledge of the designs that allow causal explanations and the designs that do not

Competence and skills

- the ability to clarify which designs allow for causal explanations and which do not
- the ability to independently search for and use published research for the planning, execution and presentation of results of scientific inquiries
- the ability to formulate empirically testable hypotheses through operational definitions of variables
- the ability to independently choose appropriate research design and analysis methods for a specific issue
- the ability to independently collect, analyse, interpret and report data in a way that is appropriate for the issue
- the ability to independently conduct statistical analyses including multiple regression and multi-factor analysis of variance, understand the principles of factor analysis and other types of pattern analysis, and account for the threats to validity in statistical conclusions
- the ability to independently analyse verbal qualitative data through different techniques of qualitative research
- the ability to critically discuss threats to the validity of conclusions drawn from different analysis methods
- the ability to independently complete a scientific report based on their own empirical data in accordance with the standards for internationally published empirical research reports in psychology
- the ability to independently master referencing
- the ability to independently perform psychological development and investigations in professional contexts

Judgement and approach

- the ability to independently assess the validity of conclusions presented in investigations and published research
- the ability to independently weigh benefits against risks in discussions of the ethical aspects of concrete research projects
- understanding of how theoretical and socio-cultural contexts as well as the researcher's perspective may affect the issue, design, data collection, analysis and interpretation

Course content

The course consists of three modules.

Module 1. Scientific Methods, 7.5 credits

This module highlights the link between the purpose of research (description, prediction, causal explanation) and problem formulation, choice of design, data collection and analysis. The topics addressed include experimental design, quasi-experimental design, correlation research, and observation and interview

methodology. Questions concerning selection, control and design are central in the course. Special emphasis is placed on the concepts of reliability and validity, and considerations and rules of research ethics are discussed. The module also deals with different theory of science perspectives and basic questions and concepts of the theory of science.

Module 2. Data Analysis, 7.5 credits

This module deals with the advanced methods and techniques of parametric statistics required to investigate hypotheses of multi-dimensional phenomena. Multiple regression and multi-factor analysis of variance are dealt with in detail. Nonparametric methods corresponding to the parametric ones are introduced, and a general description is given of factor analysis and other pattern analyses. The module also addresses different techniques of qualitative data processing and includes computer exercises involving the statistics software SPSS.

Module 3. Empirical Project (Degree Project), 15 credits.

In this module students design and complete a research project including a written and oral report. The research issues must be relevant to the discipline of psychology and thoroughly based on theories and methods of psychology. The research issues are to be formulated in consultation with the student's supervisor. The results of the investigation are to be presented in a scientific report. The report is to be designed in accordance with the standards for internationally published empirical research reports in psychology. The report is to be defended orally at an assessed seminar and the students are to orally review the project of another student. Unless special circumstances apply, a degree project can be executed by two students.

Course design

The teaching consists of classes, group exercises, seminars and computer exercises. Supervision is provided for the research project in module 3. The hours of supervision are limited to the semester in which the student first registered for the course. Exceptions can be made if there are special grounds. Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in the seminars on module 1 and 2 and the assessed seminar on module 3. 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 been absent because of duties as an elected student representative. In the case of such absence, the student is to contact course director.

Assessment

To be awarded a grade of Pass, all activity regarding the thesis work must reflect an understanding and respect for the ethical principles that must be followed. The assessment of both module 1 and module 2 is based on a written exam and compulsory attendance at the seminars. The assessment of module 3 is based on the written scientific report of the empirical project (assessment 3-1, 15 credits), the presentation and defence of the report at the assessed seminar (assessment 3-2, 0

credits) and the critical review on another student's project (assessment 3-3, 0 credits). The assessment is performed in accordance with the criteria for empirical research reports at the Department of Psychology. A re-examination of the degree project is offered through a later re-examination opportunity. Within a year of the end of the course, two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered 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 following grades are used: 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 must have shown unacceptable results.

The following components are exempted from the grading scale above: the seminars in module 1 and 2, the students' defence of their own empirical project and critical review of another student's project at the assessed seminars (assessments 3-2 and 3-3). The grades awarded for these components are Pass or Fail. For the grade of Pass, the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of Fail, the student must have shown unacceptable results.

The final grade on the course is based on a weighting of the grades on the modules in which an average is calculated for the modules with differentiated grades (in which A=5, B=4, C=3, D=2 and E=1). For a grade of Pass (at least E) on the whole course, the student must have been awarded a grade of E on all components with differentiated grades and a grade of Pass on the other components.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have completed courses in psychology amounting to 60 credits including one of the following components: (1) PSYD11 Psychology: General Psychology, 30 credits, or (2) PSYD01 Psychology: General Psychology (online) part 1, 15 credits, and PSYD02 Psychology: General Psychology (online) part 2, 15 credits, or (3) BVGA21: block 2 and 4 or (4) PEAB12 and PEAB08 or equivalent qualifications from another institution.

Subcourses in PSYK11, Psychology: Bachelor Course

Applies from V14

- 1301 Scientific Methods, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1302 Seminars in Scientific Methods, 0,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1303 Data Analysis, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1304 Seminar Data Analysis, 0,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1305 Project, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1306 Seminar Project, 0,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass