



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

PSYP11, Psychology: Theory and Practice of Science in Psychology, 15 credits

Psychology: Theory and Practice of Science in Psychology, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Psychology on 2012-05-08 and was last revised on 2012-10-24. The revised syllabus applies from 2013-09-02, autumn semester 2013.

General Information

The course is offered as a freestanding second cycle course and can be included in a Master's degree specialising in psychology or in a programme in accordance with the programme syllabus.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Psychology

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- an in depth understanding of the theory of science in relation to psychology
- an in depth understanding of social constructivist theory and its relevance to psychology
- an in depth knowledge of experimental and quasi-experimental methods in psychology
- an in depth knowledge of reliability, credibility and generalisability within research in psychology

- an in depth knowledge of research ethics in research concerning people
- an in depth understanding of advanced discussions on research methods in psychology
- an in depth understanding of research methods

Competence and skills

- an in depth ability to independently contribute to advanced discussions on research methods in psychology
- an in depth ability to independently apply knowledge of research methods to a concrete collection of psychological data

Judgement and approach

- an in depth ability to critically analyse and evaluate advanced discussions on research methods in psychology
- an in depth ability to independently assess research results from a methodological perspective
- an in depth insight into the importance of the social context for the development of psychological theories

Course content

The aim of the course is to provide students with specialised understanding of research methods in psychology and their theory of science aspects. Theoretical discussions are mixed with practical workshops to provide broad guidance in formulating and interpreting psychological research. Emphasis is placed on conducting research with related discussions on social constructivism and research ethics. Through individual and group exercises, students gain practice in developing hypotheses and research designs as well as collecting psychological data. The goal is to provide students with advanced knowledge of research methods and skills that will be useful in future research in psychology and in the application of scientific knowledge and methods in professional settings.

The course consists of two modules:

Module 1. Psychology and the theory of science (7.5 credits)

Key aspects of the theory of science and research methods in psychology are addressed in lectures. The lectures are combined with compulsory seminars in which specific methodological problems are discussed and research articles are reviewed from a theory of science perspective.

Module 2. Project including data collection (7.5 credits)

Students participate in minor experiments within four selected areas (social psychology, personality and developmental psychology, work and organisational

psychology and cognition and neuropsychology). The module also includes an individual project in which the students are to develop a pertinent hypothesis and research design, and carry out a research study in psychology. Students are expected to actively participate in the ongoing research. The work comprises fundamental research skills such as practical project implementation and methods of data collection in order to provide students with insight into how psychology as a science can be developed

Course design

The theoretical part of the course comprises teaching in the form of lectures and seminars. The seminars are 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. The project part of the course comprises teaching in the form of group supervision.

Assessment

The assessment is based on a written test, participation in seminars and practical research assignments during the project period. Three opportunities for examination will be offered in conjunction with the course. Within a year of the end 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 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

To be admitted to the course students must have passed 150 credits in psychology, including PSYK01 Psychology: Bachelor Degree Course, 30 credits. Equivalent studies at another university can also qualify the student for admission.

Proficiency in English corresponding to English B/6 from Swedish upper secondary school can be demonstrated in one of the following ways:

IELTS test with an average result of 6.5 and no section scoring less than 5.5

TOEFL paper test with a result of 4.5 (max. 6) in the written part and a total result of 575; internet-based test with a result of 20 (max. 30) and a total of 90

Cambridge/Oxford advanced certificate of proficiency

Bachelor's degree from a university with English as the only language of instruction according to the International Handbook of Universities

Pass in English B from a Swedish upper secondary school.

Subcourses in PSYP11, Psychology: Theory and Practice of Science in Psychology

Applies from H16

- 1203 Project work related to data collection, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1204 Day Labs, 0,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1205 Philosophy of Psychology, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1206 Seminars, 0,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass

Applies from H12

- 1201 Philosophy of Psychology, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1202 Project Work Related to Data Collection, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A