



Faculty of Social Sciences

PSYR11, Psychology: The Science of Psychology from philosophical and practical perspectives, 15 credits

Psykologi: Psykologisk vetenskap från filosofiska och praktiska perspektiv, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Psychology on 2025-02-25. The syllabus comes into effect 2025-03-25 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

General information

The course is given as a free-standing course and is a compulsory course within the Master's Programme in Psychology, 120 credits.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study

Specialisation

Psychology

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

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of different philosophical perspectives in relation to psychology
- Be able to describe and compare theoretical assumptions underlying psychological research, and analyze them from a philosophy of science perspective
- Be able to apply an ethical perspective to research involving human subjects

Competence and skills

- Demonstrate the ability to constructively participate in discussions on advanced philosophical issues in psychology, based on original articles.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze psychological phenomena from different philosophical perspectives
- Demonstrate the ability to use selected tools in current research areas in psychology
- Conduct and carefully document empirical research according to Open Science principles

Judgement and approach

- Critically evaluate and discuss advanced psychological issues from different philosophical perspectives
- Be able to critically reflect on the dynamic interaction between psychological science and societal development

Course content

The course illuminates psychological research from different philosophical perspectives, and provides practical experience in several current research methods with an emphasis on open science. The course contains two sub-courses.

Module 1: Philosophy of Science (7.5 credits)

- Philosophical perspectives on psychology
- The historical and philosophical foundations of cognitive science and its influence on psychological theories and research including the importance of artificial intelligence (AI)
- The historical and philosophical foundations of dynamic and phenomenological theories, including aspects of embodied, embedded, extended and enactive theories
- Social constructivist and biological perspectives on psychology
- Philosophy of mind and consciousness
- Research ethics

Module 2: Practicum (7.5 HP)

- Labs and methodology workshops
- Research project with focus on Open Science

Course design

The teaching in Module 1 Philosophy of Science consists of lectures and seminars. The seminars are compulsory. Single non-participation is compensated with a written assignment. In the case of more than one missed seminar, they are compensated with attendance at the next course instance.

The teaching in Module 2 Practicum consists of practical laboratory sessions and a research project. The practical laboratories are compulsory. Non-participation is compensated by attendance at the next course instance. At the research project, attendance at the introduction and presentation is mandatory. Non-participation is compensated with a written assignment. Students are expected to work in groups within their projects. In all subcourses, active participation in seminars and completion of practical research tasks during laboratory sessions applies.

Assessment

The examination for Module 1 consists of an oral final seminar and a written assignment. The examination for part 2 consists of a portfolio with special emphasis on documentation of the research process.

Three examinations are offered in connection with the course: a regular examination, a re-examination and a summative examination. Within one year after the end of the course, at least two additional exams are offered on the same course content.

Thereafter, the student will be offered further examinations but in accordance with the syllabus in force at the time.

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

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The student's performance is assessed based on the course learning outcomes. For a grade E, the student must show a sufficient result. For a grade D, the student must show a satisfactory result. For a grade C, the student must show a good result. For a grade B, the student must show a very good result. For a grade A, the student must show an excellent result. For the grade Fail, the student has shown an insufficient result.

The grade for the whole course is the average of the grades for the modules (where A = 5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, and E = 1). To obtain the grade Pass (at least E) on the whole course, the student must have obtained at least E on all sub-courses.

At the start of the course, students are informed about the learning outcomes of the syllabus and about the grading scale and its application in the course

Entry requirements

Admission to the course requires at least 150 credits, of which 90 credits are in psychology, including a degree project for a bachelor's degree in psychology or equivalent. English 6.