



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

PS2101 Psychology as a Science, 9 credits

Psykologisk vetenskap, 9 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Psychology on 2019-05-21 and was last revised on 2020-09-09 to be valid from 2021-01-18, spring semester of 2021.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Psychology

Position in the educational system

This is a second cycle program course which is part of the Master's Programme in Psychological Science at Gothenburg university.

The course is part of semester 1.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Master's Programme in Psychological Science (S2MAP)

Main field of studies

Psychology

Specialization

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

Entry requirements

Only students admitted to the Master's Programme in Psychological Science at Gothenburg University have access to this course.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of central topics in the philosophy of science, especially as they pertain to psychological science
- Demonstrate broad familiarity with the methodological approaches used in psychological science
- Demonstrate an understanding of the process of science and common ways in which research groups and laboratories are structured

Competence and skills

- Communicate effectively about research and scientific claims, both in speech and in writing
- Form research questions in psychological science that could be empirically studied
- Use available resources, such as internet databases and libraries, to obtain relevant information for the development of research questions and assessment of scientific claims

Judgement and approach

- Critically assess scientific claims in psychology in terms of their empirical and theoretical status, ethics, and historical context
- Effectively and critically assess the work of peers and communicate that assessment constructively

Course content

This course comprises three broad topics: (1) psychology as a science, (2) scientific methodology, and (3) practical aspects of psychological science. The course aims at providing students with a grasp of foundational concepts in science, including epistemology, empiricism, operationalization, theories, hypotheses, measurement, and data. Additionally, this course will provide an introduction to research methods in psychology. This course will also cover key skills necessary to be a successful student and researcher of psychology, such as effective scientific communication, peer assessment, and the use of database resources.

Form of teaching

Teaching will take place in the form of lectures and seminars. Active learning activities will be incorporated.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The learning outcomes are assessed through individual and group-based written and oral assignments. Students will complete written assignments to demonstrate their comprehension of key topics. Students will also participate in small-group seminars in which they will discuss relevant concepts and critically review each other's work. All teaching can provide the basis for examination. Arrangements to compensate for absence are made according to the course leader's instructions.

A student who has taken two exams in a course or part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner. The student needs to contact the department for a new examiner, preferably in writing. This should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for special educational support, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, the examiner may decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, but no more than two years, after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to placements and professional placements (VFU), although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). In order to receive a grade of Pass (G), a student must actively participate in the mandatory seminars and must receive a grade of Pass (G) on each individual written and oral assignment.

In order to receive a grade of Pass with Distinction (VG), a student must satisfy all the requirements to receive a grade of Pass (G) but also must receive a grade of Pass with Distinction (VG) on the written assignments.

Course evaluation

The course coordinator is responsible for ensuring that students are given the opportunity to provide an anonymous, written course evaluation at the end of the course. After the course is finished, the course coordinator writes a report, which includes a summary of the course evaluation. The report is processed in the Drafting Committee for the Master's Programme in Psychological Science. The report and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation as well as students who will start the course. The report will be made

available for students.

Additional information

If the course requires use of internet, computer, digital resources, it is a student's responsibility to make sure they have access to such resources.