



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

PS2107 Human Neuropsychology, 9 credits

Mänsklig neuropsykologi, 9 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Psychology on 2020-05-27 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

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

Main field of studies

Psychology

Specialization

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

Only students admitted to the Master's Programme in Psychological Science (S2MAP) at the University of Gothenburg have access to the course.

The students are required to have a minimum of 45 passed credits within the programme, including passing grade in the courses PS2101 Psychology as a Science, PS2301 Methods I, PS2302 Methods II and PS2303 Methods III.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate understanding of the specific aspects of the philosophy of science that apply to the field of neuropsychology.
- Demonstrate broad knowledge of neural transmission, the neuroanatomy, and the major computational principles of the human brain.
- Demonstrate understanding of the most commonly used methods in human neuropsychology.
- Demonstrate understanding of the methods and results of studying genetic and environmental origins of inter-individual differences in psychological traits.
- Demonstrate broad understanding of the current scientific knowledge about the brain basis of cognition, social cognition and emotion, and lifespan development of these functions.
- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of select recent research trends in human neuropsychology.

Competence and skills

- Apply neuropsychological perspectives to the major domains of psychological science.
- Place recent findings in the field of neuropsychology in a broader theoretical, empirical, and historical context.
- Communicate recent findings in neuropsychology in an accessible way to different target audiences.
- Formulate research questions and hypotheses based on recent empirical work in the field, plan studies addressing these questions

Judgement and approach

- Evaluate, based on theoretical and methodological considerations, the quality of empirical work in human neuropsychology.
- Critically evaluate different methods and analyses for studying brain-behavior relationships.

Course content

The first part of the course covers the philosophy of science related to neuropsychology, the basics on brain anatomy and neurotransmission, the methods of neuropsychology, and in particular an integration of the perspective of neuropsychology with the other psychological disciplines, including cognitive psychology, social psychology, and lifespan development. The focus is on the brain basis of normal human functioning. The second part of the course employs an in-depth treatment of select recent research trends in neuropsychology. In both group and individual assignments, this part of the course emphasizes the development of the students' abilities to evaluate the quality of recent empirical work in human neuropsychology, contextualize these findings, communicate them in an accessible way, formulate research questions and hypotheses based on recent

empirical work in the field, plan studies addressing these questions.

Form of teaching

Teaching will take place in the form of lectures, seminars, laboratories, and group supervision. The language of instruction is English.

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Assessment

The learning outcomes are assessed through an individual exam, active participation in seminars, and an individually written and orally presented research plan. All of the course literature and all of the lectures can be grounds for examination. All seminars are subject to examination and are therefore mandatory. Arrangements to compensate for absence can be 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).

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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. These reports 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.