



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

PS2302 Methods II, 5 credits

Vetenskaplig metod II, 5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Psychology on 2019-06-04 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

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

- Describe and explain basic principles and central concept related to statistical analysis
- Describe and explain basic principles relating to test construction and test theory

Competence and skills

- Plan and carry out quantitative data collection through questionnaires
- Use and evaluate selected statistical analyses for investigating associations between variables
- Construct and test instruments for psychological testing
- Communicate results from a quantitative study, both orally and in writing

Judgement and approach

- Critically evaluate scientific work with regard to psychological testing

Course content

This course provides an introduction to quantitative research methods, discussing core concepts such as statistical inference, measurement, data, reliability and validity. It provides students with in-depth knowledge and skills in quantitative data collection and analysis, including analysis software, with focus on concepts such as test construction and test theory, and related analysis techniques (e.g., correlation, exploratory factor analysis (EFA), and confirmatory factor analysis (CFA)).

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 perform data collection, working in small groups, and will individually prepare a project report. Students are required to plan and perform data collection, and to analyze data using the appropriate methods. Students will produce a report of their empirical study including methods and results sections. Arrangements to compensate for absence are made according to the course leader's instruction. All teaching can provide the basis for examination.

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 obtain the grade Pass in the course, the following is required:

- Active attendance on the seminars and on the group assignments (conducting quantitative research in creating a questionnaire, conducting data collection, analyzing the data, and presenting the results) as well as the grade Pass (G) on all linked written assignments
- The grade Pass (G) on the individual oral exam.
- The grade Pass (G) on the individual written exam.

To pass the course with distinction the following is required:

- Active attendance on the seminars and on the group assignments (conducting quantitative research in creating a questionnaire, conducting data collection, analyzing the data, and presenting the results) as well as the grade Pass (G) on all linked written assignments
- The grade Pass (G) on the individual oral exam.
- The grade Pass with Distinction (VG) on the individual written exam

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.