



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

PS2501 Master's Thesis in Psychological Science, 30 credits

Masteruppsats i psykologisk vetenskap, 30 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Psychology 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

A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Entry requirements

Only students admitted to the Master's Programme in Psychological Science (S2MAP) at the University of Gothenburg have access to the course. To access to the course requires at least 75 higher education points, 25 of which must include the following courses: Vetenskaplig metodik I (Methods I) 5 hp, Vetenskaplig metodik II (Methods II) 5 hp, Vetenskaplig metodik III (Methods III) 5 hp, Vetenskaplig metodik IV (Methods IV) 5 hp, och Vetenskaplig metodik V (Methods V) 5 hp

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- Understand and integrate theoretical, methodological and empirical information from current psychological science

Competence and skills

- Critically formulate research that contributes to current empirical and theoretical knowledge in psychological science
- Apply quantitative and/or qualitative methodologies to a research topic in psychological science
- Select, apply and provide justifications for the use of psychological research and theory in the planning and execution of a research project
- Plan, conduct, analyze and report a scientific study in a form suitable for publication in a peer reviewed journal
- Communicate the results of a scientific study in a manner suitable for general audiences

Judgement and approach

- Present, discuss, critically evaluate and defend a scientific study
- Critically review and evaluate peers' scientific research in a constructive manner
- Apply principles of research ethics to one's own and others' work

Course content

Students will plan, conduct, analyze and report a scientific study in the form of a thesis, in a form suitable for publication in a peer reviewed journal. The subject of the study is chosen in consultation with supervisors.

Teaching takes the form of seminars and supervision where the student receive assistance with planning, implementation, analysis, and reporting of their work. The course ends with a mandatory seminar, where the thesis is presented, defended, and discussed. Students will serve as opponents for another thesis, providing a written critique and discussion at the defense seminar. Students will also present their theses to broader, general audiences.

Form of teaching

Teaching will take the form of seminars and supervision. The thesis is to be written in English.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The course is assessed primarily by the written thesis and the underlying empirical work, which will be presented and defended at a thesis seminar. Each student must also individually summarize his/her thesis in a written summary aimed at a wider public (i.e., a popular science summary), serve as opponent for another student's thesis and submit a written opposition document in which they evaluate that student's thesis. The grade is mainly based on the thesis, but also on supervisor's assessment of the student's degree of independence, the written opposition paper, the defense of his/her own thesis and the popular science summary. The final seminar is mandatory. Examination takes place individually or in groups. 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).

For the course, one can receive a grade of Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U). Receiving a grade of Pass requires the following:

- A grade of Pass for defending one's thesis and for serving as opponent for another thesis
- A grade of Pass for the written thesis

Receiving a grade of Pass with Distinction requires the following:

- A grade of Pass with Distinction for defending one's thesis and for serving as opponent for another thesis

- A grade of Pass with Distinction for the written thesis
- Detailed requirements for receiving each grade are provided in the course guide.

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.