



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

PX1110 Judgement and decision making, 30 credits

Bedömning och beslutsfattande, 30 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Psychology on 2018-12-04 and was last revised on 2020-09-09 to be valid from 2021-08-30, autumn semester of 2021.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Psychology

Position in the educational system

The course is a core course and is given as a single subject course at first cycle.

Main field of studies

Strategic Human Resource Management
and Labour Relations

Specialization

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-
secondary level entry requirements

Entry requirements

General entrance requirements

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- explain central theories that highlight how people make judgments and decisions
- explain how individual, situational, emotional, motivational, social and cultural factors can affect judgments and decisions
- explain strategies for efficient decision-making in groups and in negotiations
- discuss how environmental decisions (with the help of psychological insights) can be made in ways that make it easier for people to make good choices

Competence and skills

- apply theoretical knowledge in decision-making to everyday situations
- summarise and present scientific articles about judgment and decision-making

Judgement and approach

- reflect on ethical and moral aspects of decision-making

Course content*Sub-courses***1. Judgement (*Bedömningar*), 10 credits**

Grading scale: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U)

Module 1 highlights that decision-making processes generally involve the assessment of probabilities and that such assessments can take place unconsciously (intuition) or consciously (reflection). It also focuses on how often people use mental shortcuts (heuristics) when making probability assessments as well as how, why and when this results in predictable error conclusions (bias).

This module also discusses how people draw conclusions about causalities and how their way to search and interpret information can be influenced by motives, convictions and earlier experience.

2. Decision making (*Beslutsfattande*), 10 credits

Grading scale: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U)

Module 2 gives information based on psychological research on how people make decisions that include uncertainty and risk, as well as how preferences and risk appetite are affected by context and emotions. In particular, tendency to evaluate outcomes such as gains or losses relative to a subjective and influential reference point is highlighted, and how this has far-reaching consequences for decision-making. Furthermore, this module features expertise, why specific decision strategies are differently suited for various environmental decisions, how people make predictions, and how they evaluate immediate outcomes compared to future ones.

3. Judgement and decision making in social context (*Bedömning och beslutsfattande i social kontext*), 10 credits

Grading scale: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U)

Module 3 focuses on how people make judgments and decisions that concern

Module 3 focuses on how people make judgments and decisions that concern justice and cooperation. Some of the topics discussed is research on how often people base moral positions on intuition to later give rational causes for them. Group decisions are also discussed as well as strategies for negotiations and conflicts of interest. The module also presents information on how environmental decisions can, with the help of psychological insights, be made in a way that makes it easier to make good choices (nudging).

Form of teaching

The teaching methods include lectures and seminars.

Language of instruction: Swedish

The reading list consists mainly of literature in English.

Assessment

All teaching, reading list and course materials provided during the course can form the basis for examination. The learning objectives are assessed through three written exams (one per module), written individual assignments, group presentations of a research article (one per group and module), and active participation in all seminars. All seminars are compulsory. Absence should be compensated according to the instructions of the course coordinator.

If a student who has failed the same examined component twice, wants to change examiner before the next examination, they should submit a written request to the department responsible for the course. The request shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

If the University of Gothenburg has decided that a student is eligible for special study support, the examiner may, provided it is compatible with the aim of the course and it can be done within the scope of available resources, decide to offer the student an adjusted examination or a different examination format.

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student should normally be guaranteed access to at least three opportunities for examination (including the regular examination session) during a period of at least one year, but at the most two years after the course has been discontinued/changed. The above also applies to internships and on-the-job-trainings with the exception that exam is given on only one occasion.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

To receive a Pass (G), students must:

- actively participate in all seminars
- pass an individual written assignment
- pass a group presentation of research article
- get a Pass (G) on an written exam

To receive a Pass (G) on the whole course, students must get a Pass (G) on all three modules.

To receive a Pass with distinction (VG) as the final grade, students must get a Pass with distinction (VG) on two modules and a Pass (G) on the remaining one.

Course evaluation

The course coordinator is responsible for ensuring that students are given the opportunity to provide an anonymous, written course feedback at the end of the course. Upon completion of the course, the course coordinator writes a course report, which includes a summary of students' feedback. The course report is discussed in a relevant course evaluation group and is communicated both to the students, who completed the course evaluation as well as to the students who are starting the course. These reports are available to students.

Additional information

It is the student's responsibility to make sure they have access to digital tools like computer, internet or similar resources.