



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

PX1500 Psychology: Research Methods and Bachelor Thesis in Psychology, 30 credits

Psykologi: Forskningsmetod och kandidatuppsats, 30 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Psychology on 2015-09-23 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 an advanced course, delivered as a free standing, first cycle course. The course can also be delivered as part of the Teaching Programme.

Main field of studies

-

Specialization

G2E, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements, contains degree project for BA/BSc

Entry requirements

To enter the course, the student must meet the General entrance requirements and have a passing grade in the Basic course in Psychology (PX1100), as well as the Intermediate course in Psychology (PX1200), with at least 20 credits approved courses, of which the course Method must be approved, or equivalent knowledge. For students who complete the course as part of the Teaching Programme, entry requirements are outlined in the document *Common provisions for interdisciplinary theses within the teaching programme* (Gemensamma föreskrifter för det interdisciplinära examensarbetet inom lärarutbildningen) (approved 2005-11-16, rev. 2007-08-29).

Learning outcomes

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

Sub-course 1: Research methods

Knowledge and understanding

- explain the philosophy of science behind, as well as epistemological conditions for, the most commonly used research methods and techniques within psychology

Skills and abilities

- search for, acquire and critically review scientific literature
- based on a given psychological question, develop a suitable research design for a valid and reliable study
- describe and analyze data using methods appropriate for the variables and research questions

Judgement and approach

- evaluate how choice of method characterizes scientific work and how this enables/limits the conclusions which can be drawn from a study

Sub-course 2: Bachelor Thesis in Psychology

Skills and abilities

- formulate a psychological research question appropriate for investigation
- search for and summarize literature relevant for the research question
- plan and complete an empirical study with consideration of time constraints, and relevant ethical considerations
- apply some of the most commonly used scientific methods and techniques
- choose and apply the most appropriate method of analysis for the collected data
- present an empirical work, both in writing and orally, for the other course participants, as well as explain the main results for a broader audience

Judgement and approach

- argue for and defend their own empirical work
- review a completed empirical study on scientific grounds
- communicate critique in an analytic, systematic, thoughtful and pedagogical manner

Course content

The course is composed of two sub-courses: Sub-course 1, Research methods (15 higher education credits) and Sub-course 2, Bachelor Thesis in Psychology, Kandidatuppsats (15 higher education credits).

Sub-courses

1. **Research Methods** (*Forskningsmetod*), 15 credits

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

This sub-course provides advanced knowledge of concepts from the Philosophy of Science which are relevant for research methods. Design, methods and analysis of empirical studies are covered. Advantages and disadvantages of design choices are discussed based on methodological, practical and ethical aspects. The sub-course also includes searching for scientific literature and articles, with the help of databases such as PsychINFO, and reviewing of scientific articles. Different methods for collecting and analyzing qualitative data are also addressed (including thematic interviews and conversational data). Survey methods, descriptive and inferential statistics, analysis of variance and non-parametric alternatives are covered. A small pilot study (including a short theoretical background, data collection, data analysis, interpretation and presentation) is included.

2. **Bachelor Thesis in Psychology** (*Kandidatuppsats*), 15 credits

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

In this sub-course, the student will practically apply their knowledge of research methods and independently plan, complete and present a defined research study (in the form of a report). The study should normally be connected to the department's research and be empirical in character. The thesis work will be supervised by a teacher at the department. For students who complete the course within the framework of the Teaching Programme, guidelines outlined in the document: *Common provisions for interdisciplinary theses within the teaching programme* (approved 2005-11-16, rev. 2007-08-29) apply.

Form of teaching

The course is composed of lectures, exercises in conjunction with lectures, computer exercises and seminars

Language of instruction: Swedish

Assessment

Sub-course 1, Research Methods: All course literature and teaching, including participation in exercises and seminars, can be used as the basis for examination. The course is examined through an individual exam and individual assignments.

Sub-course 2, Bachelor Thesis in Psychology: Examined on the basis of the thesis and the empirical work on which it is built. The thesis will be discussed in a thesis seminar. Each student will individually summarize their thesis in a written piece aimed at a broader audience (i.e., a popular science summary), act as an opponent on a thesis, and submit a written summary of their comments from the opponency. The grade is primarily based on the thesis, but also on the supervisor's assessment of the student's degree of independence, the written summary of comments on another student's thesis, the defense of their own thesis, as well as the popular science summary.

For both sub-courses, the following applies:

All teaching and course literature can be used as the basis for examination.

Arrangements to compensate for absence are made according to the course coordinator's instructions.

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

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course was given.

Grades

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

To obtain the final grade of Pass (G) for the whole course, the following is required:

- a Pass on the individual written exam
- a Pass on all of the individual assignments
- active participation in exercises and seminars for all sub-courses
- a Pass on the Bachelor's thesis
- a Pass on the defense of the student's own thesis
- a Pass on the opposition of another student's thesis
- a Pass on the individual popular science summary of the thesis

To obtain the final grade of Pass with Distinction (VG) for the whole course, the following is required:

- a Pass with Distinction on the individual written exam
- a Pass on all of the individual assignments
- active participation in exercises and seminars for all sub-courses
- a Pass with Distinction on the Bachelor's thesis
- a Pass on the defense of the student's own thesis
- a Pass on the opposition of another student's thesis
- a Pass on the individual popular science summary of the thesis

For students who follow the course within the framework of the Teaching Programme, the course is examined as an interdisciplinary thesis within the Teaching Programme.

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 working group for free standing courses and will be communicated to those students who completed the course evaluation, as well as the students who will start the course. These reports will be made available for students.

Additional information

The document *Common provisions for interdisciplinary theses within the teaching programme* (approved 2005-11-16, rev. 2007-08-29) is attached to this course syllabus.