



## DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

### **PX2104 Legal Psychology: Current Research, 15 credits**

Rättspsykologi: Aktuell forskning, 15 högskolepoäng

*Second Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Psychology on 2017-09-22 to be valid from 2018-01-15, spring semester of 2018.

*Field of education:* Social Sciences 100%

*Department:* Department of Psychology

#### **Position in the educational system**

*Main field of studies*

Psychology

*Specialization*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

#### **Entry requirements**

At least 90 hec in psychology at Bachelor's level (first cycle) is necessary to enter the course, including a thesis of 15 credits.

Applicants must also prove knowledge of English: English 6/English Course B or the equivalent level of an internationally recognized test, for example TOEFL or IELTS.

#### **Learning outcomes**

A student who successfully completes the course should be able to:

*Knowledge and understanding*

- demonstrate knowledge of the scientific basis of legal psychology
- demonstrate deep insight into current research in key areas of legal psychology

*Competence and skills*

- critically and systematically integrate knowledge in the field of legal psychology
- identify and formulate research questions in the field of legal psychology, and to clearly report and discuss these research questions

*Judgement and approach*

- make scientific and ethical assessments in the field of legal psychology
- evaluate the possibilities and limitations of research in legal psychology and its role in society

**Course content**

The course covers current research on key areas in legal psychology. The teaching consists of lectures and seminars. The course consists of three sub-courses.

*Sub-courses*

1. **The legal system: the actors and decision-making** (*Rättssystemets aktörer och beslutsfattande*), 5 higher education credits  
Grading scale: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U)  
This sub-course covers an overview of the principles of different legal systems (the inquisitorial, adversarial and mixed systems), models for legal decision-making, and recent psychological knowledge of relevance for the actors in the legal systems.
2. **Memory, deception detection and credibility assessment** (*Minne, tillförlitlighets- och trovärdighetbedömningar*), 5 higher education credits  
Grading scale: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U)  
This sub-course covers state of the art research on human memory processes, deception detection and credibility assessment.
3. **Interviewing and interrogation** (*Intervju och förhör*), 5 higher education credits  
Grading scale: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U)  
This sub-course covers state of the art research on the interviewing of victims and witnesses, and the interrogation of suspects in criminal cases.

**Form of teaching**

Teaching will take place in the form of lectures and seminars.

*Language of instruction:* English

## Assessment

The learning outcomes are assessed through individual written exams and papers, and in active participation of seminars. All seminars are the basis for examination, and are therefore obligatory. Arrangements to compensate for absence are made according to the course leader's instructions.

A student who has taken two examinations in a course or a part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner, unless there are special reasons to the contrary (HF 6 chap. 22§). Such a request should be made in writing to the department responsible for the course.

In the event that a course has been discontinued or undergone major changes, the student is guaranteed at least three examination opportunities (including the ordinary exam opportunity) during a period of at least one year, based on the course's previous layout.

## Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). To obtain a Pass (G) grade for sub-courses, the student must meet the following requirements:

- Active participation in the sub-course's obligatory seminar(s).
- A Pass (G) grade on the individual written assignment(s).

To obtain a Pass with Distinction (VG) for sub-courses, the student must meet the following requirements:

- Active participation in the obligatory seminar(s).
- A Pass with Distinction (VG) grade the individual written assignment(s).

A Pass grade for the entire course requires at least a Pass grade for all sub-courses. A Pass with Distinction grade for the entire course requires a Pass with Distinction for sub-courses corresponding to at least 10 of the course's total higher education credits (two sub-courses), in addition to at least a Pass grade for other sub-courses.

## 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, second level 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.

