



## DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

### **PX2114 Clinical addiction psychology, 7.5 credits**

Klinisk beroendepsykologi, 7,5 högskolepoäng

*Second Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Psychology on 2020-05-28 and was last revised on 2023-11-15 to be valid from 2024-01-15, spring semester of 2024.

*Field of education:* Medicine 100%

*Department:* Department of Psychology

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

The course is given as a freestanding course at master's level.

*Main field of studies*

Psychology

*Specialization*

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

#### **Entry requirements**

Applicants should hold a master's degree in Psychology.

#### **Learning outcomes**

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

*Knowledge and understanding*

- Describe psychological explanatory models for why addiction problems arise, develop and progress.
- Describe preventive measures for heavy consumption of alcohol and treatment interventions to overcome its abuse and dependence.

*Competence and skills*

- Discuss suitable treatment and recovery programmes for alcohol misuse and dependence.
- Communicate core values attached to the psychologist's role to promote high quality care in clinical questions that concern addiction.

#### *Judgement and approach*

- Problematiser different forms of ethical and legal aspects that are central for treatment measures and interventions for alcohol misuse and dependence.
- Reflect on how organisational factors of the addiction care and the psychologist's role in the healthcare chain influence treatment measures and interventions for alcohol misuse and dependence.

### **Course content**

The aim of the course is to increase knowledge about psychological models and theories of addiction and their clinical applications. In addition to this, through discussions with colleagues and course leaders, students will also increase knowledge of legal and ethical aspects in the management of addiction issues in relation to patients/clients, colleagues and the organization one works in.

The course consists of two modules:

#### *Sub-courses*

#### **1. Basic theories and concepts in addiction psychology** (*Grundläggande missbruks-och beroendepsykologi begrepp och teorier*), 5 credits

Grading scale: Pass (G) and Fail (U)

In Module 1, we discuss and problematise central theoretical frameworks concerning addiction, substance and behavioral abuse within the field of addiction psychology. This module includes a presentation and discussion of models on psychological dependency. Additionally, Module 1 highlights pathogenic and salutogenic mechanisms as well as psychological interventions to prevent and change behavior connected to alcohol abuse and addiction. We also discuss organizational factors of addiction care and the psychologist's role in the care chain in addiction treatment. Lastly, Module 1 also deals with various forms of ethical and legal aspects that are central for psychologists in clinical management of addiction problems.

#### **2. Systematic review** (*Systematisk översikt*), 2.5 credits

Grading scale: Pass (G) and Fail (U)

Module 2 consists of a written systemic review of application of psychological methods within the addiction psychology field. The students choose a specialization based on the themes discussed in Module 1, and are expected to further develop and deepen the knowledge through reading the compulsory course literature.

### **Form of teaching**

The teaching consists of online learning activities such as lectures, seminars, discussion forums, peer discussions, peer review and written assignments.

*Language of instruction:* Swedish

The course literature can consist of literature in both Swedish and English.

### **Assessment**

All teaching, course literature and other course material provided during the course can form the basis for examination.

Module 1 is assessed through participation in compulsory components, passed written assignment and participation in a digital discussion forum and examination seminar.

Module 2 is assessed through participation in compulsory components, passed written assignments and participation in examination seminar. Compulsory components must be compensated according to the course coordinator's instructions.

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).

A student with a recommendation for special educational support from the University of Gothenburg may receive an adapted examination or alternative examination form provided that the examiner decides it is compatible with the course objectives and unreasonable resources are not required.

In the event where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examinations (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year up to two years after the course has been discontinued/changed. The same applies for internships and on-the-job trainings, but with a restriction to only one additional examination session.

### **Grades**

The grading scale comprises: Pass (G) and Fail (U).

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#### *Sub-course 1*

- Completed and approved written assignments.
- Attendance, active participation and approved grants according to instructions for compulsory learning. Alternatively approved complementary assignment.

#### *Sub-course 2*

- Completed and approved written assignments.
- Attendance, active participation and approved grants according to instructions for compulsory learning. Alternatively approved complementary assignment.

**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. On 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. The reports are available to students.

**Additional information**

If the course requires access to a computer, internet or other digital tools, it is the student's responsibility to make sure to have access to such resources.