



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

PX2502 Master Thesis in Psychology, 15 credits

Psykologi: Masteruppsats, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Psychology on 2018-02-13 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

Main field of studies

Psychology

Specialization

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

Entry requirements

For admission to the course, applicants must have a passing grade in following courses: PX2501, Psychology: Magisteruppsats (15 credits) or the equivalent course. In addition, the applicants must also have completed PX2310 Psychology: Statistical analysis and method (15 credits) and PX2311 Psychology: Qualitative research methods (15 credits), or at least 30 credits in quantitative and/or qualitative research methods in psychology at the advanced level.

Furthermore, the applicants should have Swedish B/Swedish 3 and English B/English 6.

Learning outcomes

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

Competence and skills

- independently and critically formulate a research problem and develop hypotheses that build on current, advanced empirical and theoretical knowledge in the chosen research area
- apply obtained knowledge in quantitative and/or qualitative methods to the research problem
- independently plan, carry out, analyse and report a scientific study that meets the requirements for publication in scientific journals
- communicate the results to a broad audience in a form of a popular science text

Judgement and approach

- present, argue, critically evaluate and defend their own scientific study in a systematic and educational manner
- independently and critically review and evaluate other scientific studies in a systematic and educational way
- adhere to ethical principles in research

Course content

The aim of the course is to give training in independent planning, implementation and reporting of a study in the form of a thesis. Research topic is chosen in consultation with supervisor, who is active in one of the department's research groups. The thesis should meet the basic requirements for publishing in international scientific journals.

Teaching is given in the form of supervision, where the student gets help to plan, carry out, analyse and report the research project. The course ends with a compulsory seminar, where the thesis is presented and discussed.

Form of teaching

Teaching consists of seminars and supervision.

Language of instruction: Swedish

The thesis should be written in Swedish or English.

Assessment

The assessment is based on the thesis as well as the underlying empirical work that is brought up to discussion during a thesis seminar. Each student should do individually a written summary of their thesis that aims at a broad readership (popular science summary), critically evaluate thesis and submit a written opposition essay. The grade is based primarily on the essay but also on the supervisor's assessment of the student's degree of independence, the written opposition essay of their own thesis, and the popular science summary. The final seminar is compulsory.

Compensation for absence is made according to the course coordinator's instructions.

If a student who has failed the same examined component twice and 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 a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for special educational support, the examiner may, given it is compatible with the course objectives and unreasonable resources are required, decide to give the student an adapted examination or alternative examination form.

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 with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

To obtain the grade Pass, students must:

- receive a pass in both opposition of other's thesis and in their thesis defense
- receive a pass in their thesis

To receive the grade Pass with Distinction, students must:

- receive a pass with distinction in opposition of other's thesis and in their thesis defense
- receive a pass with distinction in their thesis

More detailed criterion for Fail, Pass and Pass with Distinction are available 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 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

The literature is chosen individually in connection with the selected thesis topic.

If the course requires access to digital resources like a computer, internet or other tools, the student is responsible for making sure they have access to such resources.