



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

PX2503 Master Thesis in Psychology, 30 credits

Psykologi: Masteruppsats, 30 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

The course is given as a free standing course at second cycle level.

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 at least 60 credits at second cycle level in psychology of which 30 credits should consist of the following courses: PX2310 Psychology: Statistical Analysis and Methods (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 second cycle level.

In addition, applicants must meet language requirements of 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

- critically and independently formulate a research question that builds on current and advanced theoretical and empirical knowledge in the chosen area
- apply acquired quantitative and/or qualitative methodological knowledge to the research question
- independently plan, undertake, analyse and report a scientific study that meets publication requirements in scientific journals
- communicate the findings in a popular science format

Judgement and approach

- present, oppose, critically evaluate and defend own scientific study in a systematic and educational way
- independently review and evaluate peers' scientific studies in a systematic and educational way
- adhere to principles of research ethics

Course content

The aim of the course is to provide training in independent planning, conducting and reporting of a study in the form of a thesis. Research topic should be chosen in consultation with supervisor, who is involved in one of the departments research groups. The thesis should meet general requirements for publishing in international scientific journals.

Teaching is provided in the form of seminars and supervision, where the student gets help with planning, conducting a study as well as analysing and reporting the research findings. The course ends with a mandatory seminar where the thesis is presented and discussed.

Form of teaching

Teaching is given in the form of seminars and supervision.

Language of instruction: Swedish

The thesis can be written in either Swedish or English.

Assessment

The examination is based on the thesis as well as the underlying empirical work that is discussed at a thesis seminar. Each student should individually write a summary of their thesis in a popular science format, do opposition on peer's thesis and submit a written opposition essay. The grade is based primarily on the thesis, but also on the supervisor's evaluation of the student's level of independence, the written opposition essay, the thesis

defence and the popular science summary. The final seminar is mandatory. The examination may take place individually or in groups. Compensation for absence is made 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).

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 get the grade Pass, students must:

- get a passing grade in opposition to another student's thesis and defence of their own thesis
- get a passing grade in their thesis

To get the grade Pass with Distinction, students must:

- get a Pass with Distinction in opposition to another student's thesis and defence of their own thesis
- get a Pass with Distinction in their own 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.