



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Psychology

Syllabus

Sustainable leadership

Course Code:	PSAM26
Course Title:	Sustainable leadership <i>Hållbart ledarskap</i>
Credits:	7.5
Degree Level:	Master's level
Progressive Specialisation:	Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (A1N)

Major Field of Study:
PSA (Psychology)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2026-02-11, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2026 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

A bachelor-level degree of at least 180 credits, of which 90 credits must be in Psychology, including an independent project of at least 15 credits at G2E level. In addition, upper secondary level Swedish 3, English 6 or Swedish level 3, English level 2.

An equivalence assessment can be made.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to

1. give an account of and discuss different leadership theories and paradigms from a historical perspective,
2. problematise and discuss different leadership theories in relation to change management at both global and local levels,
3. problematise and reflect upon ethical aspects of leadership related to sustainability, gender equality and diversity, and
4. problematise and reflect upon different types of leadership in acute crisis situations.

Content

The course covers various theoretical models and perspectives on leadership in relation to change management at the individual, group, organisational, and societal levels. Leadership is addressed both from a historical perspective and in light of current societal challenges such as sustainability, gender equality, and diversity. Factors such as motivation, group development and personality are related to theories of change and leadership. Special emphasis is on the strengths and challenges of leading long-term strategic change processes, as well as leadership in acute crisis situations. Instruction is in the form of lectures, literature study, seminars, group work, discussions, and presentations.

Students are expected to participate actively in shaping the course content through seminar discussions and other learning activities throughout the course. The course requires self-study, continuous reading, and active, reflective participation in group discussions.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

All learning outcomes are assessed based on written and oral assignments, completed individually and in groups, presented and discussed in seminars.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

Grades

One of the grades Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.