



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Psychology

Syllabus

Conflict management

Course Code:	PSAM28
Course Title:	Conflict management <i>Konflikthantering</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 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 central theories related to conflicts and conflict strategies at the individual, group, organisational, and societal levels,
2. problematise and discuss different perspectives and strategies for managing conflicts,
3. demonstrate an understanding of theories concerning the concepts of conflict and conflict management and relate these to individual, group, organisational, societal, and cultural contexts, and
4. explain and reflect upon how theories and models of conflict and conflict management may be of practical relevance for sustainable development.

Content

The aim of the course is for students to acquire fundamental knowledge about conflicts, conflict strategies, and conflict management at the individual, group, organisational, and societal levels. The course addresses conflicts as a phenomenon, and tools for managing and resolving conflicts. Special emphasis is on the role of communication in the emergence and resolution of conflicts, as well as models for negotiation and mediation. The course also places special emphasis on how theories of conflict and conflict management can be applied in work toward a sustainable society, gender equality, inclusion, and diversity. Group-based and individual exercises aimed at promoting personal reflection are included as components of the course.

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.