



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Psychology

Syllabus

### **Course Approval**

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 5 March 2013, and is valid from the Autumn semester of 2013 at Karlstad University.

**Course Code:** PSGA38

**Psychology - Foundations, 30.0 ECTS Credits**

**(Psykologi - grunder, 30.0 Swedish credit points)**

**Degree Level:** Bachelor

**Progressive Specialisation:** G1N (First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements)

### **Language of Instruction**

Swedish

### **Prerequisites**

General admission requirements

### **Major Field of Study**

PSA (Psychology)

### **Learning Outcomes**

The course comprises four modules:

Module 1 Introduction to psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr

Upon completion of the module, students should be able to:

- describe and explain the historical and philosophical development of psychology as a science,
- give an account of central theories and perspectives in psychology,
- describe and explain central theories and perspectives on mental ill health,
- give an account of various mental disorders and forms of therapy,
- process small-scale quantitative data using descriptive statistics and present the result in writing,
- cooperate in a group on conducting an investigation with the help of a specific research method based on scientific criteria,
- cooperate in a group on producing a written report on the investigation adhering to the manual on report writing, and
- give an account of central research methodological and ethical concepts based on course literature and referring to the completed investigation with an academic approach in a seminar.

Module 2 Biological and cognitive psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr

Upon completion of the module, students should be able to:

- describe and explain the biological foundation of behavioural and mental processes on the basis of physiology, sensation and perception,
- describe and explain learning, memory and thinking,
- apply the knowledge of the two aspects mentioned above to psychological phenomena,

- process large-scale quantitative data with the help of descriptive statistics and present the result in writing,
- cooperate in a group on computerised information searches for relevant research articles,
- cooperate in a group on conducting an investigation using a specific research method based on scientific criteria,
- cooperate in a group on producing a written report on the investigation adhering to the manual on report writing, and
- explain central research methodological and ethical concepts based on course literature and referring to the completed investigation with an academic approach in a seminar.

#### Module 3 Developmental psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr

Upon completion of the module, students should be able to:

- describe and explain developmental changes in behaviour and mental processes in a life perspective,
- discern how individual development is linked to different societal circumstances,
- identify relevant research in the field of developmental psychology,
- problematise the theories and method of developmental psychology,
- process and analyse quantitative data with the help of descriptive and elementary inferential statistics, present the material in writing and draw basic conclusions from the result,
- cooperate in a group on conducting an investigation using a specific research method based on scientific criteria,
- cooperate in a group on producing a written report on the investigation adhering to the manual on report writing,
- cooperate in a group on describing the theoretical foundation of the investigation based on their chosen research articles and apply standard psychology referencing systems, and
- analyse and explain central research methodological and ethical concepts based on course literature and referring to the completed investigation with an academic approach in a seminar.

#### Module 4 Social- and Group Psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr

Upon completion of the module, students should be able to:

describe, explain and evaluate central theories on social thinking, social influence and social relations,

- integrate theories to reach comprehensible and multifarious explanations regarding individual and collective similarities and differences in various social contexts,
- identify relevant research in the field of social psychology,
- give an outline of how research studies can be carried out by means of different data collection methods taking into account some of the general potentials and limitations of the respective method,
- analyse and evaluate research ethical aspects,
- apply course content in official as well as everyday social contexts where personal and social needs meet,
- process and analyse quantitative data with the help of descriptive and elementary inference statistics, present the result in writing and draw conclusions on the basis of the result,
- explain the theoretical principles of descriptive statistics and elementary inference statistics,
- explain how scientific studies with different research methods can be conducted and the potentials and limitations of the respective method, and
- analyse and explain central concepts and aspects.

#### Content and Form of Instruction

The course comprises four modules:

##### Module 1 Introduction to psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr

The module introduces the historical development of psychology into a modern science in terms of key concepts, theories and perspectives. Basic aspects of theory of science, method and research ethics related to the content of the module are also treated. Instruction is in the form of lectures, group work and group reports, preparatory assignment and laboratory sessions, group supervision and seminars.

##### Module 2 Biological and cognitive psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr

The module deals with biological and cognitive psychology presented in terms of key concepts, theories and perspectives. Basic aspects of theory of science, method and research ethics related to the content of the module are also treated. Instruction is in the form of lectures, group work and group reports, preparatory assignment and laboratory sessions, group supervision and seminars.

### Module 3 Developmental psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr

The module deals with developmental psychology presented in terms of key concepts, theories and perspectives. The development in the childhood and youth periods and phases of adulthood are presented. Basic aspects of theory of science, method and research ethics related to the content of the module are also treated. Instruction is in the form of lectures, group work and group reports, preparatory assignment and laboratory sessions, group supervision and seminars.

### Module 4 Social- and Group Psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr

The module deals with social psychology presented in terms of basic concepts, theories and perspectives. Basic aspects of theory of science, method and research ethics related to the content of the module are also treated. Instruction is in the form of lectures, group work and group reports, preparatory assignments, and group supervision and seminars.

### Reading List

See separate document.

### Examination

The course comprises four modules:

Modules 1-3 are assessed separately on the basis of an individual, written exam and a mandatory laboratory report discussed in a mandatory seminar. Module 4 is assessed on the basis of a written exam. All modules include mandatory group reports and assignments.

Laboratory sessions, seminars group presentations and exercises are mandatory as are attendance at research lectures in all modules. Any further mandatory requirements are specified in study guides.

### Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course. The grade Distinction is awarded to students who have earned this grade for at least three of the four modules.

### 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 assessment is based on student views and experiences as reported in written course evaluations and/or group discussions. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of the measures to be taken.

### Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

### Additional Information

Students who enrolled before 1 July 2007 will complete their studies in accordance with the requirements of the earlier admission. Upon completion students may request degree and course certificates to be issued under the current ordinance if they meet its requirements.

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

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