



Faculty of Arts and Social Science
Psychology

Syllabus

Psychology - Foundations

Course Code:	PSGA38
Course Title:	Psychology - Foundations <i>Psykologi - grunder</i>
Credits:	30
Degree Level:	Undergraduate level
Progressive Specialisation:	First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements (G1N)

Major Field of Study:

PSA (Psychology)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Science 2015-09-14, and is valid from the Spring semester 2016 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

General admission requirements

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:

1. describe and explain the historical and philosophical development of psychology as a science,
2. describe and explain central theories and perspectives in psychology,
3. describe and explain central theories and perspectives on mental ill health,
4. describe and explain phenomena of relevance to mental illness, mental health disabilities and therapy methods
with the help of central concepts and theories in psychology,
5. conduct and report on a minor study and present the results with the help of basic descriptive statistics.

Module 2 Biological and cognitive psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr

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

1. describe and explain the biological foundation of behavioural and cognitive psychology on the basis of modern science,
2. describe and explain the central concepts and theories of biological and cognitive psychology,
3. explain psychological phenomena in terms of the central concepts and theories of biological and cognitive psychology,
4. search for relevant research articles and use them as a basis for argumentation, and
5. conduct and report on a minor study and present the results with the help of descriptive statistics.

Module 3 Developmental psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr

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

1. describe and explain the central concepts and theories of developmental psychology,
2. explain and analyse psychological phenomena in individual development in terms of biological and cognitive models of explanation,
3. explain and analyse how social life conditions, such as gender, affect human development,
4. use the traditional source and reference systems of psychology, and
5. conduct and report on a minor study and present the results with the help of descriptive statistics basic inference statistics.

Module 4 Social and Group Psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr

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

1. describe and explain the central concepts and theories of social psychology,
2. explain and analyse psychological phenomena in terms of social psychology theories,
3. explain and analyse social situations with the help of social psychological concepts and theories,
4. process and analyse quantitative data with the help of descriptive and basic inference statistics, and
5. describe and explain the possibilities and limitations of scientific psychology in terms of methodological and ethical aspects.

Content

The course comprises four modules:

Module 1 Introduction to psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr

The module introduces the historical and theoretical development of psychology into a modern science in terms of key concepts, theories and perspectives. The theoretical assumptions in the history of the different perspectives are presented and analysed. 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, which all required individual study and preparation.

Module 2 Biological and cognitive psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr

The structure of the brain is presented and how humans receive, interpret and use information. Information processes such as attention and short- and long-term memory are treated and related. Students learn to address and answer the following type of questions: We see, hear, remember, feel happy ? what happens in our bodies and how can we explain such phenomena with the help of central concepts and theories in biological and cognitive psychology? Why do we forget certain events while remembering others extremely well? How do motivation and emotion-cognition affect us? The theoretical assumptions in the history of biological and cognitive psychology are presented and analysed. In addition, components of theory of science, research methods and research ethics related to the module are presented and analysed. Instruction is in the form of lectures, group work and group reports, preparatory assignment, group supervision and seminars, which all required individual study and preparation.

Module 3 Developmental psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr

Human development is described in a life cycle perspective. Different aspects of development, such as, cognition and emotion, are described in relation to the respective development phase. The interaction of psychological, social and cultural factors in the development are treated and issues of gender discussed. In addition, components of theory of science, research methods and research ethics related to the module are presented and analysed. Instruction is in the form of lectures, group work and group reports, preparatory assignment and laboratory sessions, group supervision and seminars, which all required individual study and preparation.

Module 4 Social and group psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr

Social psychology refers to the psychological study of individual thoughts, feelings and behaviour in

social contexts. The following issues are addressed: How does the presence of other people affect our performance? How does the presence of other people affect problem-solving? How do our attitudes form and change? What produces pro-social behaviour? In addition, components of theory of science, research methods and research ethics related to the module are presented and analysed. Instruction is in the form of lectures, group work, group reports, preparatory assignments, group supervision and seminars, which all required individual study and preparation.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on:

Module 1 Introduction to psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr

All learning outcomes: written exam, individual laboratory assignment, individual hand-in assignments presented and discussed in mandatory seminars.

Module 2 Biological and cognitive psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr

All learning outcomes: written exam, individual laboratory assignment, individual hand-in assignments presented and discussed in mandatory seminars.

Module 3 Developmental psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr

All learning outcomes: written exam, individual laboratory assignment, individual hand-in assignments presented and discussed in mandatory seminars.

Module 4 Social and group psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr

All learning outcomes: written exam, individual method task and individual hand-in assignments presented and discussed in mandatory seminars.

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 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.