



Faculty of Arts and Social Science  
Psychology

# Syllabus

## Psychology B

<b>Course Code:</b>	PSGB04
<b>Course Title:</b>	Psychology B <i>Psykologi B - fördjupning</i>
<b>Credits:</b>	30
<b>Degree Level:</b>	Undergraduate level
<b>Progressive Specialisation:</b>	First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (G1F)

**Major Field of Study:**  
PSA (Psychology)

### Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Science 2016-09-13, and is valid from the Spring semester 2017 at Karlstad University.

### Prerequisites

At least 15 ECTS cr completed of the course PSGA34, Psychology A, 30 ECTS cr, or at least 15 ECTS cr completed of the course PSGA38 Psychology - Foundations, 30 ECTS cr, or equivalent

### Learning Outcomes

The course comprises four modules:

Module 1 Organisational Psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr.

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

1. account for the historical and philosophical development of organisational psychology as a scientific discipline,
2. describe and explain central concepts and theories in organisational psychology,
3. explain and analyse psychological phenomena based on theories in organisational psychology at the level of the individual, group and organisation,
4. explain and analyse situations and problems in the workplace using concepts and theories in organisational psychology, and
5. formulate and evaluate solutions to work related situations using theory and empirical findings in organisational psychology.

Module 2 Communication and Interview, 7.5 ECTS cr.

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

1. describe and explain central concepts and theories in the area of social communication,
2. explain and analyse human communication on the basis of scientific communication theories focusing on the individual, relationships, interaction and context,
3. formulate a suitable question and plan and complete a small interview study designed to answer the

question,

4. describe, explain and evaluate the communicative quality of the interview using central concepts and theories in scientific communication theory,
5. demonstrate ability to communicate effectively and functionally for the purpose of informing, discussing, explaining, instructing and giving constructive feedback in speech and writing.

Module 3 Research Methodology B, 7.5 ECTS cr.

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

1. describe and explain different sampling and data collection methods applied in psychological research,
2. analyse qualitative data material using an appropriate analytical method and present the result in accordance with psychological conventions,
3. analyse quantitative data using descriptive statistics and present the result in accordance with psychological conventions,
4. calculate mean differences using different t-tests and calculate correlations using different correlation analysis models and present the result in accordance with psychological conventions,
5. determine which statistical test is most appropriate for analysing a problem, and
6. account for different criteria used to evaluate the quality and generalisability of research studies.

Module 4 Research Project, 7.5 ECTS cr.

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

1. formulate a scientific question,
2. seek appropriate scientific information to question and apply a reference system in accordance with psychological conventions,
3. plan, design, carry out and report a small scientific study based on a chosen question, and
4. account for and evaluate problems and difficulties which can affect the quality in the different phases of planning, conducting and reporting a research study using scientific criteria.

## **Content**

The course comprises four modules:

Module 1 Organisational Psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr.

The module deals with human experiences, needs, opportunities and actions at work. Using central concepts and theories in organisational psychology and different perspectives on organisation and leadership, central areas are presented and discussed in relation to existing research, such as the physical and psychological working environment, leadership, motivation and performance, job satisfaction, health and well-being. The development of organisational psychology is analysed and discussed on the basis of historical and philosophical perspectives.

Classes are conducted in the form of lectures, group work, presentations, exercises and seminars, and it is necessary that students independently prepare for classes by studying the mandatory literature.

Module 2 Communication and Interview, 7.5 ECTS cr.

The module deals with human communication. Central concepts and theories in scientific communication theory are presented and discussed to understand what affects how we perceive and understand each other. Central areas are, for example, the demands placed on us to improve our understanding of others and be understood by others, and how these demands are affected by different factors. Practical skills in conducting an interview, which can be described as a professional conversation for the purpose of obtaining information from another person, are developed. Other issues presented and discussed are how information can be elicited in an effective way and how information can be evaluated.

Classes are conducted in the form of lectures, group work, presentations, exercises and seminars, and it is necessary that students independently prepare for classes by studying the mandatory literature.

Module 3 Research Methodology, 7.5 ECTS cr.

The aim of the module is that students develop the knowledge and skills required for the research project in module 4. Methods of sampling, data collection and analysis are presented for solving

psychological questions. Problems and limitations of research methods are presented, analysed and evaluated with the help of central concepts in research methodology.

Classes are conducted in the form of lectures, group work, presentations, and exercises using qualitative and statistical analyses, manual calculation and managing a statistical software program, as well as developing thematic analysis skills. It is necessary that students independently prepare for classes by studying the mandatory literature and practice qualitative and quantitative analysis on their own.

**Module 4 Research project, 7.5 ECTS cr.**

Under supervision, students plan and conduct an empirical study, documented in a research report. In the supervision sessions, students analyse and discuss the problems, which may arise during the conduct of their research, to improve the quality of their study and their report. It is required that students defend their project at a seminar and serve as peer reviewers of their fellow student's report. It is necessary that students independently work on conducting the empirical study and writing the research report.

### **Reading List**

See separate document.

### **Examination**

The course comprises four modules:

**Module 1 Organisational Psychology, 7.5 ECTS cr.**

Assessment is made on the basis of a written exam and individual assignments presented and discussed at mandatory seminars.

**Module 2 Communication and Interview, 7.5 ECTS cr.**

Assessment is made on the basis of a written exam and individual written assignments presented and discussed at mandatory seminars.

**Module 3 Research Methodology, 7.5 ECTS cr.**

Assessment is made on the basis of a written exam and individual written assignments presented and discussed at mandatory seminars.

**Module 4 Research Project, 7.5 ECTS cr.**

Assessment is made on the basis of the student's individual empirical study, documented in a research report and defended at a seminar. Assessment is also based on the student's performance as a reviewer of a fellow student's research report.

### **Grades**

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

Supervision is mandatory unless there are special reasons for not attending. Supervision is only provided for the duration of the course. Reregistered students are offered supervision to the extent permitted by circumstances and resources.

Opportunities to retake mandatory components are offered to students who have been absent because of unforeseen events such as illness. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as a student representative in university bodies.