



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Psychology

Syllabus

Research Methodology and Research Project

Course Code: PSGB06

Course Title: Research Methodology and Research Project
Forskningsmetodik och fördjupningsarbete

Credits: 15

Degree Level: Undergraduate level

Progressive Specialisation: 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 Sciences 2017-09-12, and is valid from the Spring semester 2018 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

At least 15 ECTS credits completed for the course PSGA34 Psychology A: An Overview 30 ECTS cr, or at least 15 ECTS cr completed for PSGA38 Psychology: Foundations 30 ECTS cr, or equivalent.

Learning Outcomes

Module 1 Research Methodology (7.5 ECTS cr)

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

1. explain central methodological concepts and different scientific theoretical approaches and relate them to the most commonly applied methods in psychological research;
2. formulate a research question and design a reliable and valid study to answer the question;
3. conduct an interview study based on a given question, analyse the material using an appropriate analytical method and present the result in accordance with psychological conventions;
4. conduct a quantitative study based on a given question, analyse the material using descriptive and inference statistics and present the result in accordance with psychological conventions; and
5. account for limitations in the different methods applied in psychological research and relate these limitations to reliability and validity.

Module 2 In-depth Study (7.5 ECTS cr)

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

1. formulate a feasible psychological question, search and summarise relevant scientific information;
2. plan and carry out an empirical study based on a research question considering time frames and relevant ethical aspects;
3. present an empirical study in accordance with psychological conventions;
4. manage problems and difficulties related to the empirical study;
5. review others empirical studies as well as give constructive feedback in a systematic, deliberate and

pedagogic manner; and

6. argue for and defend their own empirical study as well as identify their need of further knowledge in the field.

Content

Module 1 Research Methodology (7.5 ECTS cr)

The aim of the module is that students develop the knowledge and skills required for the in-depth study in Module 2. Methods of sampling, data collection and analysis are presented for solving different psychological questions. Problems and limitations of research methods are presented, analysed and evaluated with the help of central concepts in research methodology and different scientific theoretical approaches.

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 analytical skills.

The module requires students to study the literature independently and to practice qualitative and quantitative analysis on their own.

Module 2 In-depth Study (7.5 ECTS cr)

Under supervision, students plan and carry out an empirical study and present the result in a research report. In seminars, students analyse and discuss the problems that may arise during the conduct of their research to improve the quality of their study and report. The module terminates with a final seminar where students defend their empirical study and serve as a peer reviewer.

The module requires students to work independently on their empirical study and research report. Supervision is only provided for the duration of the course. Re-registered students are offered additional supervision if circumstances permit.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on:

Module 1: written exam and individual hand-in assignments, presented and discussed in mandatory seminars.

Module 2: group discussions in the mandatory supervision seminars, in which students analyse the empirical study and the completed research report; the seminar defence and performance as a peer reviewer.

The number of assessment opportunities for module 2 is limited to five (on account of limited resources).

Grades

One of the grades 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.

Students who have been prevented from attending or completing a mandatory component through no fault of their own, e.g. accidents, sudden illness, are offered a new assessment opportunity or alternative assignment. This also applies to students who have been absent from classes because of student representative commitment.