



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: PSGC20

Psychology III Scientific Fields in Psychology, 30.0 ECTS Credits

(Psykologins forskningsfält, 30.0 Swedish credit points)

Degree Level: Bachelor

Progressive Specialisation: G2E (First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements, contains degree proj. for B.A./B.Sc.)

Language of Instruction

The language of instruction is Swedish.

Prerequisites

Psychology 52.5 ECTS credits, including Research Methodology 7.5 ECTS cr from the course Psychology II 30 ECTS cr or the equivalent.

Major Field of Study

PSA (Psychology)

Learning Outcomes

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

- familiarize themselves purposefully of the research areas in psychology, both past and present,
- carry out focused information searches in Swedish and international research databases,
- formulate well-defined research questions and hypotheses based on theory and the object of study and relate them to appropriate methods for collecting and processing data,
- plan scientific investigations of the psychological research questions and hypotheses required to answer them,
- use the statistical software SPSS for descriptive and inferential statistics,
- perform certain statistical calculations manually,
- apply most of the qualitative data analysis methods to qualitative data,
- present a research project in a scientific way orally and in the form of a report (thesis), and
- apply relevant qualitative and quantitative methods, and analyse, understand, compile and evaluate theory, method, result and the ethical and societal aspects of research.

Content and Form of Instruction

The course comprises three modules.

Module 1 - Research Areas in Psychology (4.5 credits)

This module focuses on the historical development of the study of psychology, as well as its various perspectives relating to the history of ideas, the theory of science, and to psychological theory and method. Students survey current international research in the field, and practise making systematic searches for relevant data in international databases.

Module 2 - Method (10.5 credits)

This module focuses on methodological aspects of psychological research with special emphasis on scientific approach, design, data collection, and data processing of qualitative and quantitative data. Students practise operationalising psychological questions and hypotheses in order to collect and process qualitative data in accordance with thematic analysis, and quantitative data in accordance with relevant non-parametric and parametric statistical methods and with the help of the statistical software programme SPSS.

Module 3 - Empirical Study (15 credits)

In this module, students translate a relevant research question or hypothesis into an actual small-scale scientific study. The study should be clearly linked to relevant fields in the research area of international psychology. Moreover, the study should be presented in the form of a scientific report adhering to established scientific conventions as outlined by the Department of Psychology. At the end of the module there is an open seminar in which students present and defend their reports and act as a peer reviewer of another student's report.

Supervision is only offered to students while the course is in progress. Students who fail to complete the project satisfactorily during this time may re-register at the next course opportunity. They will then be offered additional supervision to the extent made possible by available resources.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Module 1 - Assessment is based on a written take-home exam.

Module 2 - Assessment of qualitative research methods is based on a written exam, seminars and workshops. Assessment of quantitative research methods and statistics is based on a written exam and individual hand-in assignments.

Module 3 - Assessment is based on a thesis proposal regarding the purpose, questions, and method of the thesis and basic theoretical frame and ethical considerations. This proposal must be approved by the examiner before the project can proceed. Assessment is also based on the completed empirical study documented in a report, and on its presentation and defence at a seminar as well as on the student's performance as peer reviewer of a fellow-student's thesis. All components must be satisfactorily performed.

The number of examination opportunities is limited to five.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course. One of the grades Pass (G) or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of modules 1 and 2. One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of module 3. Students who have earned a Distinction in module 3 are awarded an overall Distinction for 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 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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