Syllabus
for course at first level
Introduction and scientific method
Introduktion och vetenskaplig metodik

12 Higher Education Credits
12 ECTS credits

Course code: PSYY01
Valid from: Autumn 2008
Date of approval: 2007-05-29
Updated: 2008-10-16
Department: Department of Psychology
Subject: Psychology

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements
Students must be enrolled on the Psychologist Program.

The course will be run over terms 1 and 3. For admission to term 3 (module 1.2) students must have completed all course demands and obtained at least 75% of course credits for terms 1 and 2.

If special reason exists exempt from the prerequisites may be given by the Department Board.

Course structure

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Course content
This course aims to introduce students to research methods in psychology and the basics of science and scientific methodology.

1.1 Introduction 4.5 credits
This module aims to provide an introduction to the program, along with an orientation to psychological work, its development and the current professional roles of psychologists, tasks, career opportunities and trade union affairs. This module component also introduces psychology as a science in terms of current theoretical debates and contemporary views of the area.

1.2 Research methods in psychology, 7.5 credits
This module component aims to introduce the student to research methods in psychology, including literature searches, investigative-planning, data processing, descriptive and inferential statistics, principles involving the selection of participants, relations between the sample and the population, experimental and non-experimental research designs, quantitative and qualitative methods, basic principles of test methods, carrying-out
investigations, reporting of research results, critical evaluation of results, research ethics and scientific theory.

Scientific methodology consists of an additional 30 "embedded" points developed in the different courses over terms 1-8. The structure of "embedded" course components is governed by the "Guidelines for the teaching of research and science" (see account below).

**Learning outcomes**
On completing this course a student will

- Have an understanding of the structure of the program and the demands of psychologists in different work areas.
- Be able to define psychology as a scientific discipline and as subject area.
- Have acquired basic knowledge and skills in statistics, testing methodology, research, and investigation, and that they can independently be applied in different fields of psychology.
- Know about and be able to apply basic ethical principles in science.
- Have acquired the method knowledge necessary to understand the content of course books in various psychological subject areas, review scientific articles, conduct literature searches and applied exercises in the area.
- Know something of the basics of psychological science and the link between science and research, such that the student can understand and assimilate knowledge in various subject areas and evaluate studies that adopt different scientific approaches.

**Education**
Attendance in certain tutorials is compulsory. The precise form of tuition and course demands (compulsory exercises and demands) will be specified in the respective module directives.

Students are also required to act as participants in course related laboratory tasks and exercises.

**Forms of examination**
Assessment will be by way individual written and viva voce examination of assignments and group project. More precise details will be provided in the instructions for the module.

Module 1.1 will be graded in terms of pass or fail. Module 1.2 and the final grade for the whole course will be based on a seven point grading scheme (A to F). This final grade will be determined by the grade awarded for module 1.2, provided that course module 1.1 is passed.

For students that do not pass by way of the ordinary test occasions, further examination may be arranged in close proximity to the failed examination. Students that do not pass after two attempts, on some of the modules, have the right to request a different tutor be appointed to grade the module. This request can be made to the Department Board.

**Limitations**
This course cannot be read as an independent course.

**Additional information**
Memorandum: Guidelines for teaching research methods and science theory

In order to achieve a high quality of education, the teaching of research methods and theory of science should be implemented according to the following general guidelines.

1. All method tuition should be conducted in close relation to the subject area of the module. Method tuition must therefore be integrated into the various subject areas of the modules as far as possible.

2. Tuition with new methodological elements should start with a presentation of a problem which is related to the subject area in which the method tuition is included. The problem(s) should be adequately discussed so that the discussion leading up to the research design and/or method has the potential to answer the question. The aim should be that no design or method is presented without examples from the current subject area of interest.

3. Data analysis should be conducted with data that the students have collected themselves or by way of data-
sets customized to the analysis that are present in the module.

4. Methods presented in previous courses should see recurrent use in various applied components of subsequent courses, so that knowledge and skills remain relevant and if needed deepened.

5. The literature should comprise a few basic method books that can be suitably referred to throughout the different courses.

6. The literature must be complemented with a PM that sums up the main guidelines of the actual method. Examples of areas where such complementing is appropriate include the introduction of statistical programs, report writing and literature searching.

7. Literature searching in databases and e-journals are designated in the course plan as a special topic during the first term. Updating and further development of these skills should be ongoing throughout the students' education. Literature searches should be an integral part of most modules.

8. Examination of scientific articles should occur regularly, but need not necessarily be specified in the component course plan. An exercise may involve searching for relevant articles in databases or e-journals in the current subject area. Such critically examined articles may be presented in a short PM, and the content of the articles may be presented and discussed in a seminar.

9. Independently conducted exercises involving the planning of investigations or data processing in the area should be found in each term. These exercises should concern the application of methods from earlier terms in the area being read. A proposal is that students conduct an investigation in an area of interest on the basis of a given theoretical perspective. Another proposal is to discuss an issue and relevant data-set where the task is to analyse the data so that the issues under discussion can be answered. These types of exercises are not specified in the course plans except in the initial terms, and may be conducted without the course tutor but with the possibility of supervision.

Required reading