Syllabus
for course at first level

Dynamics of Groups and Organizations in Society
Grupp, organisation och samhälle

45 Higher Education Credits
45 ECTS credits

Course code: PSYY05
Valid from: Autumn 2008
Date of approval: 2008-05-20
Department: Department of Psychology
Subject: Psychology

Decision
Ratified by the Board of the Psychology Department, Stockholm University; 20-05-2008. The course plan is valid from the beginning of the autumn term 2008.

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

The course runs over terms 3 and 4. For admission to term 3 or higher the requirements are

• All courses and modules from the terms before the last two must be wholly completed.
• All compulsory elements of the last two terms must be wholly completed, and at least 75% of credits in the last two terms must have been achieved.

If special reason exists exempt may be given by the Board of the Psychology Department.

Course structure

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Course content

5.1 Group and group processes, 15 credits
This module concerns the structure and processes that guide the interplay between people in small and large groups. Emphasis is placed on aspects that concern norms, roles, leadership, decision-making, and conflicts within and between groups. In addition, discussion will concern verbal and non-verbal communication and other relevant subject areas for methods of research and inquiry. Different applied elements will give the student the opportunity to develop knowledge about themselves as a member of a group. This part of the course will finish with a reflective assignment, where the student will be required to describe and analyse a work-group structure and processes. Fundamental methods of qualitative data analysis will form a part of this module.
5.2 Children in groups, 7.5 credits
An aim of this module is to increase understanding of children’s development with focus on how the individual influences and becomes part of a group. The meaning of social class, cultural background, sex, and disability will be discussed, along with factors that underlie and may potentially complicate children's adjustment and development. Other issues of interest include regulations that guide activity for children in primary and elementary school. Aspects of preventive measures and interventions between children and young adults on the group level will also be presented. An element of this module will involve sitting in on teacher-children groups in school classes and analysis of qualitative data.

5.3 Social Psychology, 7.5 credits
This part of the module aims to provide a basic understanding of social psychological theory and empirical foundations. Emphasis is placed on the origin of norms and attitudes, attitude change, social cognition, prejudice, altruism, egoism, and collective behaviour. Within this framework the student is expected to choose an area for reflection with relevance for work as a professional psychologist. This module will include discussion of how to plan a questionnaire, on how questionnaires and component questions (items) are constructed and the different strategies for collection of questionnaire data. Special attention will be given to questionnaire items that touch on issues of ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic status.

5.4 Work and organizational psychology, 7.5 credits
An aim of this module is to provide the student with the basic ideas and different scientific perspectives underpinning work and organizational psychology. A further aim is to advance understanding of interactions between individuals and organizations, and relate certain theories to current working life. Areas of work psychology to be addressed include, stress and work related health, the work environment, overtime and consequence for employers. Organization psychology will concern, organization formation, leadership models, company culture and the meaning of value for governing organizations. Within the topic of work psychology stress and ill-health in relation to work is discussed as well as consequences for the employee. Questions that touch on gender, human resource, and labour legislation will be discussed. In addition, there will be exercises in data collection and analysis of questionnaire data.

5.5 Sociology, 7.5 credits
This module will give an introduction and overview of sociology with a focus on sociological theory. A goal is to develop sociological thinking, by way of a combination of seminars, lectures, and group-work, where sociological issues will be presented, discussed and applied. Issues to be addressed include action structure, meaning, networks, and class. Special emphasis will be placed on the structure of Swedish society organization.

Learning outcomes
On completing this course a student will be able to

• Describe certain social psychological and sociological theories, together with current empirical findings.
• Analyse and critically evaluate social-psychological and sociological phenomena and problems.
• Discuss how social psychology and sociological knowledge can be used in psychological work.
• Describe organizations, theory of organization and work psychology theory together with relevant empirical studies.
• Apply and integrate different theories of work and organizational psychology to interpret organizational and psychological circumstances in current working life.
• Construct questionnaires that concern the investigation and manifestation of latent variables and know how to carry out questionnaire analysis.
• Describe certain theories about small and large group structures, dynamic processes and development.
• Apply relevant methods to study interactions, group processes and behaviour in groups of children and adults.
• Plan and conduct different interventions in groups with consideration of professional-ethical principles.
• Analyse and critically evaluate certain developmental, social, and group-psychology theories with an emphasis on children and young adults in groups.
• Apply theories to practical understanding of relations and processes in children's and young-adult groups.
• Reflect on one's own role in the functioning and development of groups.
• Recognize the societal regulations and possible interventions as directed to children and young adults in groups.

Education
The precise form of tuition and specific course demands (compulsory exercises and demands) will be specified.
Participation in group exercises and experiments is compulsory.

**Forms of examination**
Assessment will take the form of individual assignments, group-works, and viva voce examination, as specified in the directives for the specific modules.

Module 5.1 will be graded in terms of pass or fail. All other modules and the final grade for the whole course will use the seven point grading scheme, A till F. The final grade for the whole course will constitute a weighted average of the grade obtained in each module (assuming a pass on module 5.1).

For students that do not pass by way of the ordinary test occasions, further examination may be arranged in close proximity to the ordinary 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.

**Additional information**
This course can not be read as an independent course.

**Required reading**
The literature used on the course will be decided by the Department Board.