Master courses, Department of Psychology
Academic year 2018/2019
Spring semester

Please note – At the time of printing of this folder some course plans and course information for the academic year 2018/2019 is still under revision. All dates are approximate and subject to change.

Courses within the General Master’s Programme in Psychology (second semester)

Psychological Aspects on Positive Youth Development, 7.5 ECTS (Psykologiska aspekter på positiv utveckling i ungdomsåren)
Study period: 2019-01-21 - 2019-03-25

The positive youth development, or PyD movement, within the social, behavioral, and health sciences considers youth as assets. This is an emerging interdisciplinary field of scholarship that steps beyond the historic and simplistic view of young people as inherently troubled. A wider scholarly framework for PyD is Applied Developmental Science, or ADS. ADS scholars focus on the real world application of what we know about human development in order to better people’s lives and often work across subfields within psychology as well as across disciplinary boundaries. ADS researchers develop and evaluate new interventions as well as examine the impact of existing policy and services on communities, families, and individuals across the lifespan. ADS is broader than PyD and can encompass the entire lifespan. PyD can fall under the ADS umbrella, but is distinct in that it is concerned with understanding and promoting well-being and health in the earlier part of the lifespan, from prenatal development up through young adulthood.

This course is designed to provide a master’s level survey of theoretical, empirical, and practical issues involved in the multidisciplinary field of applied developmental science, with primary emphasis placed on topic areas related to the exploration and promotion of positive youth development.

Trends in Cognition, 7.5 ECTS (Trender i kognition)
Study period: 2019-01-21 - 2019-03-25

This is a master and postgraduate course on cognitive functions. The aim of the course is to present current trends and topics in cognitive sciences with the primary focus on human memory functions, thinking, decision making and related cognitive functions.

The course will cover central themes of cognitive sciences, lectures and seminars deal with strength and weaknesses of different types of research methods and with research ethics. Group assignments and individual assignments involve critical analyses of research articles, and formulation and motivation of a research question in relation to the state of art in a research field.

Statistics I, 7.5 ECTS (Statistik I)
Study period: 2018-12-06 - 2019-01-18

This course aims to give understanding of statistical methods used within psychological research. The course covers topics such as data screening and data visualization, probabilities and randomization techniques, confidence intervals and effect size measures, and practical data analyses using Excel and R.

After completing the course, students are expected to be able to understand and critically evaluate results from common statistical analyses of psychology data as well as plan and conduct statistical analyses of data, including data screening, descriptive analysis, data visualization, effect size estimation and hypothesis testing.

(third semester)

Theoretical and methodological perspectives in biological psychology, 7.5 ECTS (Teoretiska och metodologiska perspektiv inom den biologiska psykologin)
Study period: 2018-09-03 - 2018-11-02

As a central and interdisciplinary part of psychology Biological psychology investigates the physiological mechanisms behind psychological processes. Biological psychology is an umbrella term encompassing subject areas such as psychophysiology, physiological psychology, cognitive neuroscience and neuropsychology. The close connection between body and mind is the central theme for all subject areas, but they differ in how this connection is studied and researched. This course addresses a selection of research areas where biological data or theories are used in the explanation of psychological processes.

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Higher Cognitive Functions, 7.5 ECTS  
(Högre kognitiva funktioner)  
Study period: 2018-11-05 - 2018-12-05  
This course adresses current theory and empirical knowledge concerning higher cognitive functions with a focus on cognitive control functions. These processes of control, sometimes referred to as executive functions, are assumed to be the base for goal-oriented behaviour and presupposes planning and co-ordination of complex intentions. This type of cognitive control is also a central part of higher mental activities, including abstract thinking and problem solving, working memory, autobiographical memory, self-image and social interaction. Many neuropsychiatric symptoms are believed to be related to a deficiency of executive control. This course also covers the relation between different types of higher cognitive functions with a focus on executive functions, decision making and meta-cognition, as well as knowledge concerning individual and developmental differences in higher cognitive functions.

Social behavior: Insights from evolutionary psychology, 7.5 ECTS  
(Socialt beteende: Evolutionära och neurovetenskapliga perspektiv)  
Study period: 2018-12-06 - 2019-01-18  
This is a course in evolutionary psychology with a focus on social behavior. Each week, students will read and discuss empirical and review articles germane to understanding basic human social behavior from an evolutionary psychology viewpoint. Both human and animal literatures will be surveyed, and relevant areas covered will include: Central issues and controversies, Prosocial behavior and cooperation, Parenting and kinship, Social influence and group dynamics, Aggression, Intergroup prejudice and conflicts, and The evolution of language.

Emotion Psychology and Affective Neuroscience, 7.5 ECTS  
(Emotionspsykologi och affektiv neurovetenskap)  
Study period: 2018-12-06 - 2019-01-18  
The course adresses current theory and empirical findings concerning emotions and their neurological base. It includes research areas such as subjective experience of emotion, emotions in music and esthetics, emotional learning and memory, reward and decision making, emotions and social behaviour, emotional control and regulation, emotional perception, stress and anxiety as well as emotionally relevant genetics. The course also aims to give insight into individual and age based differences in emotional functions. The focus of the course will be on describing, discussing and problematising current theory and empirical studies.

Courses within the Master’s Programme in Psychology:  
Personnel, Work and Organization (first semester)  
Applied Questionnaire Methods, 7.5 ECTS  
(Enkätmetodik)  
Study period: 2018-09-03 -2018-11-02  
In psychology theories and hypotheses often refer to latent (not observable) and manifest (directly observable) concepts or constructs. Empirically, these constructs are often studied with questionnaires. Consequently, a good questionnaire design is vital for the reliability and validity and the overall quality of research studies for which questionnaires are used as tools of data collection. This course teaches basics of measurement theory and questionnaire development in order to provide course students with essential skills to be able to develop, use, and evaluate questionnaire studies. Questionnaire studies are a form of research design and part of the course will also contain lectures and exercises about research design and evaluation, as well as ethical considerations.

Psycological and Organizational Perspectives on Work, Stress, and Health, 7.5 ECTS (Psykologiska och organisatoriska perspektiv på arbete, stress och hälsa)  
Study period: 2018-11-05 - 2018-12-05  
The course covers both theoretical and practical aspects of work, stress, and health/ill-health from psychological and organisational perspectives. One of the topics concerns the transition towards more boundaryless working conditions with regard to time, space, and work content. Another topic concerns the increase in insecure employment conditions in general and how the situation for individuals relates to organizational changes and overall developments in society. The course also looks at aspects such as sickness absence/presence, work hours, and recovery as well as interventions and health-promotion and preventative activities. Issues regarding gender, ethnicity, and social status will also be discussed in the course. The main focus is on how individuals and organizations can both contribute to a sustainable working life.

Organizational psychology and work place safety, 7.5 ECTS  
(Organisationspsykologi och arbetsplatsäk het)  
Study period: 2018-11-05 - 2018-12-05  
This course conveys a pre-emptive perspective on organisations, leadership, governance and practice in relations to safety and safety behaviour in organisations. The course covers the interaction between Human-Technology-Organization (HTO) in the light of organisation psychological aspects on operations management, for instance organisational culture, decision making, risk- and event analysis, quality assurance and leadership. The course also covers individual factors in relation to safety and safety behaviour.