Department of Psychology

Syllabus
for course at advanced level
Research Methods I
Forskningsmetodik I

Course code: PSMT30
Valid from: Autumn 2019
Date of approval: 2009-09-15
Changed: 2009-09-15
Department: Department of Psychology
Main field: Psychology
Specialisation: A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision
Established and approved by the Board of the Department of Psychology on 2009-09-15.
Technical revision of the Student Department 2019-04-29.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements
180 higher education credits, of which at least 90 credits must constitute Psychology I, II and III or equivalent studies in a related subject.

Course structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination code</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Higher Education Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MT30</td>
<td>Research methods I</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course content
The aim of the course is to increase the participants’ understanding of research methods, to provide the necessary skills to critically evaluate research results, and to provide training in how to define relevant and researchable research questions. Lectures and seminars cover the strengths and weaknesses of different research methods, as well as research ethics. Group exercises and individual assignments involve the critical analysis of research articles and the definition of a research question in relation to the current state of knowledge in a specific field of research.

The course covers the following topics:
- How to define a clear research question;
- Experimental and non-experimental research designs;
- Probability and statistical inference;
- Internal validity;
- Measurement and generalisability;
- Research ethics.

Learning outcomes
In order to pass the course, students are expected to be able to:
- understand and contribute to theoretical discussions on research methods, including ethical aspects of research and development work;
- critically evaluate the credibility and generalisability of conclusions from empirical studies;
- in written and oral presentations, summarise and evaluate the state of knowledge in a specific field of
research;
- define a relevant research question that addresses a current knowledge gap, and convey these ideas in writing.

**Education**

Instruction is given in the form of lectures, group exercises and seminars.

Course requirements/Mandatory components:

(a) Written report that describes and justifies a research study;
(b) Oral presentation of the written report at a seminar;
(c) Written examination.

Except for the seminar where written reports are presented, seminar attendance is optional. Students who have not passed (b) above will be offered a chance to present at an extra seminar, or individually for the course teacher.

**Forms of examination**

a) The course is examined on the basis of a written examination, a written paper, and an oral presentation using slideshow software.

b) Grades will be set according to a seven-point scale related to the learning objectives of the course:

\[
\begin{align*}
A &= \text{Excellent} \\
B &= \text{Very good} \\
C &= \text{Good} \\
D &= \text{Satisfactory} \\
E &= \text{Adequate} \\
Fx &= \text{Inadequate} \\
F &= \text{Totally Inadequate}
\end{align*}
\]

c) Students will be informed of the written grading criteria when the course starts.

d) In order to pass the course, students must receive a grade of E or higher on the written examination, as well as a passing grade on the written report and the oral presentation.

e) At least two examination opportunities should be offered during each course and semester. At least one examination opportunity should be offered during a semester when the course is not given.

Students who receive the grade Fx or F twice by the same examiner are entitled to have another examiner appointed for the next examination, unless there are special reasons to the contrary. Such requests should be addressed to the department board.

Students who receive the grade E or higher may not retake the examination to attain a higher grade.

f) Opportunities to complete a supplementary assignment in order to convert the grade Fx into a passing grade are not provided in this course.

**Interim**

If this course is discontinued, or its contents substantially altered, students have the right to be examined according to this syllabus once per semester for three further semesters.

**Misc**

The course is included in the General Master’s Programme in Psychology, 120 credits.

**Required reading**

Up-to-date information about the required reading will be available on the department website at www.psychology.su.se